

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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www.saipantribune.com 50¢



POLL RESULTS

Did you take part in last weekend's 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer?

Yes - 37

No - 54

Sunday, May 25, 2008, 6:00 PM

INSIDE



Tornado Swarm

A slow-moving storm packing tornadoes and hail battered rural Oklahoma on Saturday, destroying several buildings.

NATION...Page 16



Death Toll

China warned that the death toll from the massive earthquake could take a major leap and pass 80,000.

ASIA...Page 17



\$56 Million

He may be older, but Indiana Jones is still finding box office treasure.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

113 ALIEN WORKERS JOBLESS

Kyungseung shuts down

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Garment manufacturer Kyungseung (Saipan) Inc. shut down operations on Saturday, rendering 113 alien workers jobless.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody on Friday revoked the work permits of all 113 foreign workers effective on the day of closure.

Cody, however, granted all workers the opportunity to find jobs with new employers. He gave them seven days

See KYUNGSEUNG on Page 4

Bill OKs wage studies for NMI and A. Samoa

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A provision calling for more wage studies on the Northern Marianas and American Samoa has been included

See BILL on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Academic Achievement Award recipient Hazel Sharon Bedia Handayan (summa cum laude, associate degree in Nursing) delivers her speech during the 28th Northern Marianas College Commencement Exercise at the Marianas High School gymnasium Saturday afternoon.



HAZEL SHARON
BEDIA HANDAYAN
Summa Cum Laude



SEMONA ANN IGAMA
Summa Cum Laude



WEN HUI YE
Summa Cum Laude



JACKLYN ELAGO
ECHON
Magna Cum Laude



QUEENNA SAVANNA
CAMACHO SABLAN
Leadership Award



ROSE MARIE PAUL
JONES
Leadership Award

245 students graduate from NMC

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College awarded degrees, diplomas, and certificates to 245 students during the institution's 28th Commencement Exercise Saturday evening at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Hazel Sharon Bedia Handayan, who

graduated with an associate degree in Nursing, led the graduating class with summa cum laude honors. Jacklyn Elago Echon, who earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, was awarded magna cum laude.

The two, together with Semona Ann Imagam, summa cum laude, associate

See 245 STUDENTS on Page 4

Kaipat: Labor has system to keep projects going. **PAGE 2**
Bill allows CNMI to tap Guam buildup funds. **PAGE 3**

INTRODUCING

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Local

Kaipat: Labor has system to keep projects going

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat said the department has a workable system to ensure that there will be sufficient alien workers in the CNMI to keep major projects going.

Kaipat said that Labor put together emergency regulations with respect to the implementation of the cap on foreign workers present in the Commonwealth on the day when President Bush signed the legislation extending federal control to local immigration.

Labor's emergency regulations were published twice in the newspapers and recently appeared in the Commonwealth Register.

"We believe we have a work-

able system that will ensure sufficient 'slots' so that all our major projects can bring in enough

workers to keep everything moving along on schedule," said Kaipat in her interim progress report on the implementation of Public Law 15-108 or the new labor reform law.

The former lawmaker said that Labor consulted with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, lawyers

representing alien workers, the field representative of the Interior Department, and anyone

else who asked for a copy of the draft of the emergency regulations.

"Most comments were thoughtful suggestions for minor improvements which we incorporated," Kaipat pointed out.

Shortly before Bush signed the federalization bill, Labor drafted the emergency regulations that will effectively cap

the number of alien workers in the Commonwealth.

The goal and objective of the emergency regulations is to "require that the number of alien workers in the Commonwealth on the effective date of these regulations not be exceeded during the period of 12 to 18 months after the effective date of these regulations."

According to the draft, this would be achieved by implementing a system for monitoring departing alien workers present in the CNMI as well as arriving alien workers on the regulations' effective date, "so that the Commonwealth can ensure that the number of alien workers present in the Commonwealth on the effective date of these regulations not be exceeded."



Kaipat

'Court has no jurisdiction over child staying in U.S.'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied a petition by a couple who wanted to adopt their minor grandchild who has been living with her siblings in Nevada the past five years.

"This court does not want to set a precedent of granting adoptions over children who no longer are present nor reside in the jurisdiction," said associate judge Juan T. Lizama in denying the motion for adoption filed by Francisco Maratita Taisacan and Juanita Mundo Taisacan.

The judge said he is denying the Taisacans' petition because the child has not been present in the CNMI since 2002.

"The court does not think it proper to divest the Nevada courts of their rightful jurisdiction over this adoption proceeding," said Lizama in the order he issued last week, a few days before he resigned from the bench on Saturday.

He noted that while the Taisacans correctly submitted documentation, petitions, and consent of the natural parents, they did not sufficiently explain the child's absence from the CNMI in the last five years.

The judge pointed out that if the child currently resides in the CNMI and has done so for the last five years he would

have granted the petition.

However, an absence of five years is an extended length of time for the child to have been absent from the jurisdiction, Lizama said.

He said the Nevada court is the appropriate jurisdiction as that is the residence of the child.

Had the case been brought before a Nevada court and the Nevada court had deferred to the CNMI courts, then this petition would have been granted, he added.

Lizama said the minor child has been living with her siblings in Nevada for the past five years and has surely developed strong familial bonds.

"The court does not think it would be in the best interest of the child to remove her from her siblings and the life she has known for the last five years in order to give her grandparents parental rights," the judge said.

Lizama added that he was not given an opportunity to speak with the child to determine if this adoption is in line with her desires and interests.

"On the basis that the court cannot exercise jurisdiction over someone who has been so long absent as well as the court's determination that this adoption would not be in the best interests of the child, this petition for adoption is hereby denied," he said.

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Bill allows CNMI to tap Guam buildup funds

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas will have access to Guam military buildup funds under a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday evening.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 includes two provisions that are seen to benefit the CNMI. One provision makes the CNMI eligible for funds for military base

re-use studies and community planning assistance. The U.S. Office of Economic Adjustment administers these grant funds.

The other provision allows funds that will be set aside for the Guam defense policy review initiative to be used for the development of military facilities or training ranges in the Commonwealth.

"These are two administrative hurdles that we had to overcome in regard to the relocation of the



Tenorio

be eligible for these grants," said Pete A. Tenorio, the CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C.

3rd Marine Expeditionary Force out of Okinawa. Without them we simply would not

He reported that the Tinian municipal government is eager to submit proposals for both grants.

The House of Representatives, by a vote of 384 to 23, passed the bill on Thursday evening in Washington. The Senate version of the bill has been approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee and awaits floor action.

Both versions will need to be reconciled in a conference

committee of the two chambers before it can be sent to the President for his action or signature into law.

On Friday, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo said the bill will strengthen congressional oversight and accountability of the ongoing military buildup in Guam.

The bill authorizes \$531.4 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and national security programs within the Department of Energy. It also authorizes an additional \$70 billion for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It reflects a commitment from the Congress to provide servicemembers with substantial investment and policies to

enhance their readiness. In particular, the bill authorizes an additional \$800 million for equipment for the National Guard. The bill also provides men and women in uniform with a 3.9 percent pay raise, which is .5 percent more than requested by the President, and includes provisions strengthening TRICARE and supporting military families. The bill also contains many provisions of significant importance to Guam. Some of the provisions will enable greater federal assistance to Guam as the community prepares to improve critical infrastructure in support of the buildup. It will authorize \$180 million in military construction funding for Guam.

Woman injured in 4-car collision sues

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who was injured in a four-vehicle collision along Middle Road in front of Sugar King Park in Garapan last March has sued the driver that allegedly caused the accident.

Barbara Hofschneider sued Kyung Eae Jung for negligence. Napu Inc., the owner of the car being driven by Hofschneider, also joined the lawsuit as co-plaintiff.

Hofschneider and Napu Inc., through counsel Victorino Torres, asked the Superior Court to order Jung to pay damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Torres stated in the complaint that on March 10, 2008, Hofschneider was traveling south on Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road), while Jung was driving east.

Torres said that Jung failed to stop at the posted stop sign and entered the oncoming traffic, causing immediate collision among several vehicles.

The lawyer alleged that Jung was traveling at an alarming speed in excess of the posted speed limit.

Jung's vehicle collided with

another vehicle, causing the third vehicle to collide with Hofschneider's car, Torres said.

"Upon collision, Hofschneider's vehicle immediately spun haphazardly, was violently shaken, and overturned, where the vehicle landed on its hood," he said.

Torres said his client was in the overturned vehicle for agonizing minutes while she waited for help to exit.

As a result of Jung's negligence, Torres said, Hofschneider sustained "economic and non-economic damages, loss of income, special damages, personal injuries, severe pain and suffering, and emotional, mental distress and diminished quality of life."

As a result of Jung's negligence, he added, Napu Inc. sustained damages including property and loss of use of its vehicle.

Police said one person (Hofschneider) was seriously injured and two others were hurt in that accident.

Saipan Tribune learned that the vehicle that overturned on the outer lane of the southbound lane was a sports utility vehicle.

A white Toyota Sienna CE van that collided with the SUV rested on the shoulder of the road.

A white Ford F150 pickup

belonging to the Division of Environmental Quality landed on the drainage at the shoulder of the northbound lane after it collided with a gold Toyota Echo.

The Toyota car rested on the other side of the drainage next to the pickup truck.

All four vehicles had extensive damage. (Ferdie de la Torre)

"Memorial Day"
is a time to take stock of the present, reflect on the past,
and renew our commitment to the future of America."

- President Ronald Reagan -

While we enjoy the holiday, let us not forget those that made it possible. May we be faithful to the legacy we have been given, so that truth and freedom may prevail.

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Legislature wants to restore CPA's autonomy

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature moved on Friday to overturn the governor's takeover of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

In back to back sessions, the House of Representatives and the Senate approved a resolution rejecting an executive order that placed CPA under the Governor's Office for 120 days. The resolution also urged the governor to replace the members of the currently suspended CPA board of directors.

On May 13, 2008, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial assumed control of CPA. The governor's action came after the board's repeated failure to muster a quorum and act on fiscal measures needed to prevent CPA from defaulting on its bond indenture agreement. With the power from the reorganization, the governor has now applied the measures.

The Legislature has 60 days to amend or reject the executive order. If it takes no action, the reorganization plan will be set in the administrative code.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said the Legislature recognizes CPA's need to implement the financial measures. But the lawmakers want to prevent CPA's current setup from becoming permanent.

"The action plan implemented to aid CPA will still be in place. But we want to keep CPA's autonomy," said Palacios.

The resolution argues that the governor can avert a financial crisis at CPA by using his power to remove the members of the CPA board of directors for neglect of duty, and to appoint new members to the board.

"The Legislature stands ready to assist the governor in undertaking further action required or necessary to avert a technical default on CPA's revenue bond indenture within constitutional

and statutory boundaries," the resolution stated.

Fitial has said a legislative disapproval of his executive order would have 'dire consequences' for the CNMI. "If the Legislature were to reject my executive orders and administrative directives for CPA, the bond trustee would quickly issue a notice of technical default and this development would have very dire consequences for the CNMI," said Fitial.

He said a technical default notice would ruin the CNMI's good name and reputation in the international bond market and prevent the CNMI from issuing bonds and raising funds for many legitimate public purposes, including a pension obligation bond for the CNMI Retirement Fund.

"No one would trust us anymore," said Fitial, who urged the Legislature to support his CPA actions.

Bank vows to help CPA meet bond indenture

The Bank of Guam has pledged to help the Commonwealth Ports Authority to meet the provisions of its bond indenture.

The bank, which serves as bond trustee for CPA, clarified that it had not issued a formal notice with respect to a technical default by the ports authority on its airport revenue bond.

BOG president and chair of the board Lou A. Leon Guerrero also called it a step in the right direction; the action plan recently implemented by the CPA management, following the gover-

nor's takeover of the agency.

"The urgency of getting the plan formalized and implemented cannot be over-emphasized and I want you and other members to know that the Bank of Guam, as trustee, will work closely with CPA management to resolve this issue," Leon Guerrero said.

On March 1, 1998, CPA entered into a \$20 million airport revenue bond indenture agreement with Bank of Guam as the bond trustee. This agreement requires CPA to make timely

payments and to maintain a 1.25 revenue-to-bond payment ratio at all times during the duration of the bond. In other words, for every \$1 owed on the bond, CPA must have \$1.25 of net revenue in reserve.

CPA, which still owes \$17 million, has been making punctual payments. But it has failed to meet the required debt ratio of 1.25.

As bond trustee, the Bank of Guam could issue a notice of default and take over. (Agnes E. Donato)

On March 1, 1998, CPA entered into a \$20 million airport revenue bond indenture agreement with Bank of Guam as the bond trustee. This agreement requires CPA to make timely payments and to maintain a 1.25 revenue-to-bond payment ratio

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debt ratio of 1.25.

To help meet the bond terms, the governor has signed directives raising CPA rates, imposing austerity measures, and ending the incentive program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The new graduates of the Northern Marianas College stand for the singing of the national anthems during the 28th Northern Marianas College Commencement Exercise at the Marianas High School gymnasium Saturday afternoon.

245 STUDENTS

From Page 1

degree in Liberal Arts; and Wen Hui Ye, summa cum laude, associate degree in Liberal Arts, received Spring 2008's Academic Achievement Awards.

NMC presented 144 degrees, 65 certificates, and 36 diplomas. The degrees awarded include 28 bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education, 38 associate degrees in Applied Sciences, 13 associate degrees in Science; 27 masters degrees from the Framingham State College; 59 certificates of completion; six certificates of achievement, and 36 GED/Adult School diplomas.

NMC president Carmen Fernandez said that NMC's graduation celebrates a major accom-

plishment for all its students. "I am thankful many community members were able to attend the ceremony as our graduates appear to assume important positions of responsibility and leadership in our society."

Handayan, who also received the Leadership Award, said that she is very proud to have been part of the NMC community. She said its diversity encourages students to be who they are despite their different backgrounds. "The NMC community breaks barriers, prejudice and encourages everyone to become part of the community to be able to share, understand and learn," she said.

Handayan's family flew all the way from the Philippines to see her graduate. She said their arrival came as a shock to her, but it was by far her perfect graduation gift.

Echon, who also received the Leadership Award, provided a word of advice to her fellow graduates: "We are all educated. Our certification is in our degree. And you may think of it as a ticket to the good life but let me ask you to think of it as an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world."

She expressed gratitude for all the friendship, support, wisdom and happy and stressful moments she received at NMC.

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, president and chief executive of Bank of Guam, delivered the keynote address.

Leon Guerrero, who serves as the chair of Bank of Guam's board, had served as a senator for four terms in Guam's legislature. She is also a member of the Guam Nurses Association.

KYUNGSEUNG

From Page 1

from Friday to register with the Labor Division of Employment Services.

"Each worker may seek a transfer employer provided that a transfer employer must be located and the name of the employer must be submitted to Employment Services within 30 days after the issuance of this order," he said.

If any worker fails to find

an employer within the 30-day transfer period, that worker shall be required to report to Jeffrey Camacho of the Labor Enforcement Section within five days in order to arrange for his or her repatriation.

Cody said any refusal or failure by the worker to depart the CNMI shall result in the worker's name being forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for deportation proceedings.

If a worker applies to transfer to another garment manufacturer under the same job category,

the job vacancy announcement requirements shall be waived by Labor's Employment Services, Cody said.

If the employee asks for repatriation or fails to find a new employer within the required 30-day period, Cody said the employer of record shall be notified and must provide a repatriation ticket within 15 days.

He said if the employees have any additional claims against the factory, they are instructed to present the claims to Labor investigators Carlos Camacho

and Frank Aguon within 30 days from Friday, May 23.

Last May 6, Labor granted early transfer rights to 18 alien workers of the Sadog Tasi-based factory.

Of the 18 factory workers (all Chinese), three canceled their request and expressed intent to go back to China.

Labor administrative hearing officer Herbert D. Soll said the 18 are among the workers holding permits with longer validity than the intended operations of the company.

Labor determined that the 18 are not at fault and that they have the right to transfer to another employer.

At that time, garment manufacturer Uno Moda Corp. was reportedly waiting to receive the 18 workers.

Kyungseung general manager Gyeong Bog Lee earlier said that the company is closing down due to the adverse economic condition brought by the application of the Federal Minimum Wage Act in the CNMI, the trade competition in China and other Asian

countries, the increased costs of doing business in the CNMI, and lack of orders.

With the closure, only six garment factories remain on Saipan. The CNMI used to have 34 garment factories, all located on Saipan.

In the early part of 2008, six garment factories closed down, affecting close to a thousand workers.

Many garment factories on the island started ceasing operations since January 2005 when the World Trade Organization lifted trade quotas.

BILL

From Page 1

in a war spending bill approved by the Senate late last week.

The minimum wage in the Commonwealth and American Samoa will again increase by 50 cents effective today. This brings the wage floor in the CNMI to \$4.05 an hour.

Under the Senate version of the Iraq war supplemental funding bill, the U.S. Government Accountability Office will be re-

quired to study the impact of the first two minimum wage hikes in the CNMI and American Samoa. GAO will study how the wage increases have affected the rates of employment and the living standards of workers. It will include other factors that impact employment and quality of living such as inflation in the cost of food, energy, and other commodities.

In addition, GAO will look at how future increases might affect employment and the living standards of workers and

the profitability of businesses, while also considering other factors such as energy costs and the value of tax benefits.

The GAO study is due between March 15, 2008 and April 25, 2008.

Furthermore, the bill requires federal agencies to include the CNMI and American Samoa in regular studies done for the 50 states. The requirement applies to U.S. Department of Labor's household and establishment surveys, the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic

data reports, and the Census Bureau's population estimates and demographic profiles.

The Senate passed the war funding bill Thursday evening in Washington, D.C. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration after the Memorial Day recess. The White House has threatened to veto the bill because of the domestic programs added to the Bush administration's war request.

Pete A. Tenorio, the CNMI's resident representative to the

nation's capital, welcomed the Senate's inclusion of the CNMI and American Samoa's section in the bill.

"These studies will provide more data on the economic condition of the CNMI than has ever been collected before," Tenorio said in a statement. "With this data, Congress will be able to make informed decisions about future minimum wage increases in the CNMI and American Samoa. With the second increase, which goes into effect on May 26, we are crossing a significant

threshold of \$4 an hour; however we must find a balance between an appropriate and livable wage for workers, and the burden it may place on employers."

Both the CNMI and American Samoa have urged Congress to conduct more studies on the wage increase. Earlier this year, the GAO released a report on the wage hikes, saying they may have adverse impacts on the two island economies. But the GAO also said more information is needed to make a more scientific projection.

DCCA eyes return of Flame Tree Fest to Memorial Park

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the last two Flame Tree Festivals, the Commonwealth Council on Arts & Culture of the Department of community and Cultural Affairs has been hosting the event at the Civic Center. Next year, though, the CCAC hopes to take it back to the American Memorial Park.

DCCA Acting Secretary Melvin Faisao said that next year's Flame Tree Festival will be the event's 29th anniversary and plans to have it at the American Memorial Park "is with a pending status."

The CCAC director is in the process of discussing the matter with the officials of the

National Parks Service, which is the federal caretaker of the park, said Faisao.

CCAC's executive director Cecilia T. Celes told the Saipan Tribune that "lately, there were some issues in the past that we faced, such as federal regulations, insurance policies that we needed to provide, and the fee to host the site that we had to pay and with the very little budget that we operate on, we couldn't have hosted it there [at the AMP]."

The Civic Center has been a tough sell with some vendors, who believe that it would not draw as much number of people "because of the limited parking space."

The festival drew up to 50,000

people in 2007 while at the Civic Center. However, according to many, the festival this year did not draw as much attention compared to previous years.

Faisao said that as discussions with officials of the American Memorial Park forge ahead, "be advised that DCCA is not very keen on certain requirements that is now being imposed by the current officer when the former caretaker [Chuck Sayon] used to provide exemption to, but with this new caretaker, there is no such thing as exemption."

He concluded that "DCCA will disclose on the significant matter whether or not to have the Flame Tree held there or not" upon finalization.

Tama Plaza Tokyu features CNMI

The annual "Mid Summer Campaign" will be held at the Tama Plaza Tokyu Shopping Mall on June 20 - July 1. The mall is located in the suburbs of Tokyo. This campaign is designed to attract shoppers for summer clothes and merchandises for the season.

The beautiful island of Saipan will serve as the backdrop for all the collateral produced for this campaign. There are 370,000 pamphlets and 1,364 posters being de-

signed. This collateral will be distributed via newspapers and posters in subways, train stations and in the shopping mall. The pamphlet will also be uploaded to the mall website www.tama-plaza.com. The target audience for this campaign is females in their late 30s to 40s. The total value of this exposure is US\$61,400.

A total of nine crew were in the CNMI to film for this upcoming promotion. They spent four days shooting in various lo-

cations around the island. MVA would like to thank Mariana Resort & Spa for their generous support in this endeavor.

"Once again, we are pleased to be featured in the Tokyo market," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "With the additional air seats heading to the CNMI out of Tokyo in the coming months, this campaign will allow us to create more awareness of the CNMI as the outbound Japanese travelers make their travel plans." (MVA)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio,
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



NOTICE OF CLOSURE OR DISMISSAL AGENCY CASES

May 19, 2008 • May 26, 2006

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING AGENCY CASES:

Each of the agency cases listed below has been concluded or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been concluded or dismissed. Any complainant who has not been served personally or by mail with the hearing officer's order concluding or dismissing the case is now, as of the second date of publication of this notice, served with the order. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the second date of publication of this notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior served personally or otherwise on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service. The Director of Labor has discretion to dismiss or close any agency case.

CASE #	EMPLOYER
05-070-04	Achuman, Inc. dba Club Nikita and Joseph A. Arriola
05-019-02	Alla, Karen Ann D.
05-082-04	Allied Construction Corp.
05-051-04	Ameriana Corporation
05-020-02	Aquino, Fe D.
05-059-04	Arizala, Maria C.
05-006-01	Big Boy's II Marine
05-044-04	Cabrera, Ed (Immigration)
05-125-10	Central Pacific Corp. and Aloha Corp.
05-029-03	Chen's Corporation
05-065-04	Chen's Corporation
05-007-01	China Yanbian, Foreign Economic & Technical Cooperation Corp.
05-021-02	Chong, Thomas A.
05-035-03	Chong, Thomas T.
05-028-03	Chris Van Mott General Contractor
05-033-03	Clack, Sam A. dba Sam's Bar & Restaurant
05-037-03	Concepcion, Ken and Normalyn and J & C Corporation
05-085-04	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.
05-100-05	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.
05-056-04	Curry's Enterprise, LLC dba Wild Bill's Bar and Grill
05-056-04	Curry's Enterprise, LLC dba Wild Bill's Bar and Grill
05-075-04	Dela Cruz, Francisco M.
05-013-01	East West Rental Center of Saipan
05-131-11	Elephant Corporation
05-053-04	Elms, Inc. dba Town and Country
05-048-04	Far Ocean Corporation
05-041-04	Fong, William
05-067-04	Golden Harvest Int'l School
05-064-04	Hansae (Saipan), Inc.
05-080-04	JCC Corporation
05-004-01	JK & S Corporation
05-034-03	Joaquin Tudela dba Ann's Creation
05-040-03	Joeten Motors Co., Inc.
05-106-08	Joo Ang Apparel, Inc.
05-084-04	Ju Young Corporation
05-079-04	K.Y.S. Ent., Inc.
05-046-04	Kimco Ent., Inc.
05-003-01	Ko-Woon Corporation
05-121-09	L & T Int'l Corp. dba Micro Pacific, Inc.
05-101-06	L & T Int'l Corp. dba Seasonal, Inc.
05-120-09	L & T Int'l Corp. dba Seasonal, Inc.
05-073-04	L and T Group of Companies, Inc.
05-088-04	Lan Corporation
05-111-08	Lee, Dong Woo and New Man Corp.
05-001-01	Luen Fung Enterprises (Spn), Inc.
05-031-03	Manalo, Elphidia A.
05-096-05	Marg's Kitchen
05-008-01	Mari Sai, Inc. dba Saipan Gold Beach Hotel
05-022-02(A)	Mariana Fashions, Inc. and Dong Bang Fashions Corp.
05-107-07	Mathew F. Smith & Good Day World Saipan, Inc.
05-022-02	Mesa, Manuel and Gloria dba M & G Security Services
05-122-09	Michigan, Inc.
05-018-02	Misamis Construction (Saipan), Ltd.
05-042-04	Neo Fashion, Inc.
05-104-07	Neo Fashion, Inc.
05-052-04	New Saipan Development, Inc.
05-062-04	Pacific Jun's Corp. dba CN's Auto Shop
05-012-01	Pacific Sun Lines, Inc.
05-010-01	Peter, John
05-112-08	Prospst, Daisy M.
05-134-12	R & S Enterprises, Inc.
05-074-04	Reyes Planning & Consulting Firm, Inc.
05-072-04	Reyes, Joseph C. and Evelyn T.
05-092-04	Sablan, Conrad M. and Sun Mei Corp.
05-119-09	Sai Trans Company, Ltd
05-124-10	Saipan J.C. Corporation
05-023-03	Sako Corporation
05-093-04	Salaban Ent. And Sun Mei Corp.
05-025-03	Sali, Lheng and Carrie C.
05-097-05	Sam Marianas and Rifu Apparel
05-102-06	Samkor, Inc.
05-058-04	Samy Boat, Inc.
05-063-04	Samy Boat, Inc.
05-015-01	Santos, Maria Louisa B.
05-071-04	Sapphire Ent., Inc. dba Salyn's Beauty Shop
05-016-01	Sea Lago, Inc.
05-123-09	Solomon, Brigida
05-133-12	Star Marianas, Inc.
05-043-04	Tae Logistic (Saipan), Inc.
05-126-10	Telesource CNMI, Inc. and Asia West Investment Group, Inc. dba Paradise Hotel
05-036-03	Tenorio, Soledad T.
05-068-04	Top Fashion
05-057-04	Tullao, Jeffre V.
05-076-04	United Int'l Corporation
05-083-04	United Saipan Investment, Inc.
05-009-01	US CNMI Development Corp.
05-014-01	US CNMI Development Corp.
05-027-03	US CNMI International Corporation
05-055-04	Wan-Guo Corporation

"The office set up is a higher quality than most ophthalmologist offices here in the U.S"

Dr. Khorram uses the latest cataract extraction techniques that are being used at U.S. mainland facilities. He has a brand new phaco machine which is the latest on the market. I was very impressed with Marianas Eye Institute's office, overall organization, and cataract surgery facility. The office set up is a higher quality than most ophthalmologist offices here in the U.S. I was very impressed with the friendly and extremely helpful staff.

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Magna Cum Laude



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Island Warrior dancers perform a traditional Carolinian dance number during Oleai Elementary School's Cultural Day celebration Saturday. The school is also celebrating its 50th year since it was established.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children play the "sponge throw" inside a booth during Oleai Elementary School's Cultural Day celebration Saturday.

OES raises nearly \$25K during Cultural Day

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Oleai Elementary School raised close to \$25,000 on Saturday during its Cultural Day/50th year anniversary held at the school campus.

OES Cultural Day happens once every two years during which students are required to show up for their attendance. This event is open to the public.

This fundraising event helps the school, as it will get a 20 percent share of the total money raised from the sale of food.

"One grade level candidate

representative has already earned \$17,000," said Cultural Day Committee's Liberty Rabauliman.

Sixth grade representative Leilighbwe Rasiang, a child of Sesarina and Fritz Rasiang, was recognized as the school's best candidate.

In the last two years, the school's Cultural Day raised about \$26,000.

"This year, we are very close to earning \$25,000," said Rabauliman.

The theme this year was multi-ethnic, with students representing the cultures of

the United States, Yap, Thailand, Philippines, Burma, Caroline Islands, Vietnam, CNMI, Chuuk, Guam, Korea, China, Pohnpei, and Palau.

The event also featured cultural performances like Sukiyaki, Hafa Adai, Rock-the-Huka, Polynesian Dances, Aloha, and Yorana.

The day's highlight was the opening of the "time capsule" made by the school's students way back in 1996.

"The 6th grade and kindergarten students in 1996 decided to put together souvenirs that included maps, telephone

directories, public school system directory, and so much more," Rabauliman said.

The school invited former principals Glenn Muna and Evelyn Uka to come to the event to open the "time capsule."

The emcee for the day was LJ Castro from Power 99.

OES principal Glenn Paul Muna stated, "I just want to thank all the sponsors and committee members for all their support, without them this event would have never been possible."

Other sponsors were Auntie Mag's, Coca Cola; Reps. Ra-

mon Tebuteb, Frank Dela Cruz, Ralph Torres, Arnold Palacios, Heinz Hofschneider, Ray Yamul, Oscar Babauta, Ray Palacios, Justo Quitugua, and Stanley Torres; CTSI, Saipan Mayor's Office, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Dolphins, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Frankie's Auto, GREE Aircon, Herman's Bakery, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Juliet Aldan, Kim's Tofu, Leticia Santos, Liberty Rabauliman, Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez, Marianas Fast Foods, Ming Ming Store, Modern Stationary, Mr. & Mrs. George Reyes, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Orsini, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold

Seman, Pacific Islands Club, Pacific Trading, Power 99, OES Room 21, Royal Crown, R & M Mettao Enterprise, Sablan Construction, Saipan Computer, Saipan Grand Hotel, Salon de Manila, Sens. Luis Crisostimo and Pete Reyes; White Coconut Computer, World Resort, W&V Duet, Java Joe's, JG Sablan Ice & Water, Cosmos, 670 Rock Steady, Trench Tech, Natibu's Kitchen D & Q, Instant Massive Bingo, Hard Rock Café, Pacific Trading Co., Shell Gas Station, Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Romolor, Pacific Telecommunication Inc., and Char's Thrifty Mart.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM • P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No:	PSS-072-2006 (Re-Announcement III)	Application & Employment Type:	Non-Certified
Position Title:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	Per Annum Salary:	\$50,000.00 - \$ 65,000.00
Pay Level/Step:	UNGRADED	Closing Date:	May 28, 2008
Opening Date:	May 14, 2008		
Location:	PSS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION		
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays)			

Minimum Requirements:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years work experience and must hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; OR Master Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years related work experience.

****The complete job description can be obtained at the PSS-Human Resources Office, 3rd Floor-Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill.**

Conditional Requirements:

This position is considered "EXEMPT STATUS": Employee is paid on a salary basis and is not eligible for overtime pay or compensatory time pursuant to the Regulations for PSS of Non-Certified Personnel and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Application Requirements:

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE). COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Elaine Kelly Bacani Cabrera, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the Northern Marianas College. "We are so proud of your accomplishments." Love, Lola, aunts, and Jeff Bacani.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Amy Rayn U. Soliman, who finished K-2 with first honor awards at the Golden Harvest International School. Greetings come from Dad, Mom, and Tito Efen.

EMO: Haze is not due to Anatahan volcano

The CNMI Emergency Management Office, in close consultation with National Weather Service Guam, clarified yesterday that the current hazy weather condition is not related to the

volcano of Anathan. The wind direction is from the northeast.

High pressure centered northeast of the Marianas and light upper level winds are helping to circulate industrial pollutants and

dust moving off of the Asian mainland southward from the mid-Pacific toward the Mariana Islands. This haze or smog will have only a minor effect on visibility and sky conditions. The Anatahan volcano

is currently quiet and is not a factor in producing this haze.

Over the next 24 to 36 hours, rain showers and changes in the upper-level transport winds will help replace the haze with clean-

er air of more tropical origin.

All mariners and boaters are reminded to take precautionary measures due to low visibility.

EMO urges the public to continue to tune in to local radio

broadcast or local news sources and log in at www.cnmiemo.gov.mp on the Internet for any future development on the Anatahan volcano or any other statements and advisories. **(EMO)**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Today is Memorial Day

The Office of the Governor, Office of Military/Veterans Affairs and the Memorial Day Committee are reminding the public to come, celebrate and honor the brave men and women who served with unwavering dedication and purpose and paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the world safe, and secure the freedom we enjoy today.

Memorial Day ceremony will be at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi today, May 26, 2008 at 9am. The Pacific Winds Concert Band will begin with the pre-ceremonial music at 8:30am. Keynote speaker will be Rear Admiral William French, Commander Naval Forces Marianas. Everyone is invited.

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, warned Friday that the U.S. military is currently conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla until May 31, 2008, from 11pm to 1am everyday.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay

away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. **(EMO)**

No classes at SSHS on May 30

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, there will be no classes on May 30, 2008 due to preparation for the graduation, but there will be classes on June 2, 3, and 4, 2008. **(PR)**

SSHS: No school on May 30

Saipan Southern High School will have no classes on May 30, 2008, due to preparation for the graduation. Classes will resume on June 4, 2008, this will be the last day of school. **(PR)**

NMC English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test next Wednesday, May 28. The test will be conducted in Room D-1 and will run from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at

NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9:00am-4:00pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payments for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733. **(PR)**

S&NISWCD meeting in June

The Saipan & Northern Islands

Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their monthly meeting S&NISWCD meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 1pm at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. For more information contact our office at 234-6180. **(PR)**

MHS Class on 1988 meeting on June 5

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting again on June 5, 2008, 6:30pm at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in

As Lito, behind Saipan International School.

It was decided on Thursday, May 15, 2008, meeting to extend the dateline for payments to June 5, 2008. Classmates are being encouraged to turn in there payments by then. You can contact our Treasurer Ms. Melissa D. Diaz at 285-2624. **(PR)**

Mount Carmel Theater Club presents first film

Mount Carmel Theatre club invites the public to join them in its first feature-length film *Caesar*, an adaptation of the classic play "Caesar" by William Shakespeare.

The event will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on Friday, May 30, and Saturday, May 31, beginning 7pm.

Due to exceptionally limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is highly recommended. The value of each ticket is worth \$5.

For more information, you can call 235-1251 or email galvin@itecnmi.com, visit their website at www.mcstheatreclub.blogspot.com. **(PR)**

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The enrollment for next School Year for K4 to Level 12 is still open for new students. **Remember, Education is not a burden but an investment for the child/children you love.** The following is the tuition fees for 2008-2009 School Year beginning August 18, 2008

- Registration: \$75 for all students
- Book fees: \$250 per student a year
- Tuition: \$150 per month for 10 months (August 08 to May 09)

New students who have enrolled in other schools will have the registration fee waived upon submitting the original registration receipt from other schools.



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Island Snapshots



EMS OPEN HOUSE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children check out a human dummy displayed during the Emergency Medical Services' 2nd Annual Fire House Open House at the Koblerville Fire Station Saturday morning in observance of EMS Week, which is designated from May 18-24, 2008. The Open House featured fun activities, such as live EMS demonstrations and displays, mini-obstacle course for kids, hitters batting cages, banana art face painting, magic performance by Prince and free flu shots and "sugar" checks by NMC nursing students.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Prince the magician entertains children during the Emergency Medical Services' 2nd Annual Fire House Open House at the Koblerville Fire Station Saturday morning.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

AG'S CUP

From left, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, Governor of Guam Felix P. Camacho, and CNMI Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory listen to the speaker during the 25th annual Attorney General's Cup speech competition at the Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort & Spa.



HONOR STUDENTS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Green Meadow School K5 valedictorian Arvin S. Dayao, left, and Salutatorian Dustin Ross D. Salilin pose for a photo during the school's graduation ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.



RICHARD BARKDULL

COMMENDATION

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crewmen replace a transformer in front of the Dandan Elementary School to restore power in the area. Richard Barkdull, a resident in the area, would like to commend these personnel for their prompt service. Barkdull, who lives in the area, said that they have had no power for almost 10 hours and appreciates the quick action of CUC personnel to restore the power.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 26, 1999

DOF asked to probe pre-paid phone cards

Unscrupulous businessmen rake in profits without paying taxes to the gov't., says Rep. Apatang

Lawmakers have asked the Department of Finance to clamp down on unlicensed businesses selling pre-paid phone cards and operating remittance service in the Commonwealth which proliferation have resulted in huge losses in revenues for the cash-strapped government. Rep. David M. Apatang, chair of the House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, has instructed the DOF to investigate the proliferation of these companies for possible violations of existing tax laws.

House poised to scrap gov't. housing perks

The House of Representatives yesterday moved closer to voting on a proposal scrapping housing benefits to all public sector employees, including those recruited from the mainland, in efforts to reduce expenditures of the government by at least \$2 million annually. Offered by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, the initial bill was overhauled by the House committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations which removed a separate proposal imposing salary caps.

Teno: We're making progress in reforms

Amid fresh allegations on labor abuses and proliferation of sweatshops in the Northern Marianas, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday that his administration is making headway in addressing the problems. The governor made the statement in light of media reports in the US mainland attacking the Commonwealth for allowing such situation to continue in a US territory.

May 26, 2000

Lang to CUC: Force gov't. to pay bills

Warning that the mounting utility bills incurred by the government is hurting the image of the CNMI to potential investors and financial institutions, former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio has urged anew the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to pressure the present administration to settle its \$12 million debt.

CUC to select 80-MW contractor today

Three top bidders on the long-delayed power project on Saipan will have the chance to win the \$120 million contract as the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation starts its negotiations with each of them after today's highly anticipated board decision. Six board directors of the government-owned utility corporation are expected to voice their votes on the fate of the proposed 80-megawatt power plant—a move that will bring the project to its next phase almost three years since its procurement began.

Commerce sees turnaround in local economy

The path toward recovery is the only direction left for the CNMI economy to take after having been knocked down by strings of financial upheavals caused by the currency crisis in major Asian countries, the Department of Commerce said. Citing the prevailing business cycle pattern, acting Commerce Secretary David S. Palacios said the local economy has already reached rock bottom as indicated by the closure of too many businesses since the onslaught of the recession in 1997.

May 26, 2003

NMI, Guam hold conference call on SARS

CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio and Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo held a telephone conference call last May 22 for health officials from Guam and the CNMI with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. to discuss federal and local preparedness for an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome. "The primary purpose of this call was to provide an opportunity for local officials to raise concerns regarding SARS with federal health officials and to discuss the resources available to Guam and the CNMI in the event of an outbreak," said Bordallo.

Wright: Discrimination lawsuit 'absurd'

Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright described as "absurd" the discrimination lawsuit that was filed against him by a former NMC director. "It's an absurd accusation," said Wright when asked to comment on the suit filed against him by terminated NMC director Jack Angello. The case is with the federal court.

House panel seeks comments on bills, initiatives

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will conduct a three-day public hearing in June at the House chamber on Capital Hill to receive testimonies on several measures, including one that will create a new immigration category for long-term alien workers and another related to having an elected attorney general.

The public hearings will be held on June 2-4, 2008, all at 6pm. The committee is chaired by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos.

At the June 2 hearing, the

committee will receive public comments on House Joint Resolution 16-3, which would put the question of calling a Constitutional Convention before CNMI voters.

Lawmakers would also entertain comments on two legislative initiatives:

■ H.L.I. 16-1 to amend Article IV of the CNMI Constitution to establish a Commission on the Judiciary and to establish that written opinions and decisions of the CNMI Superior Court and Supreme Court be is-

sued within one year of submission of the case for opinion or decision.

■ H.L.I. No. 16-10, which seeks to amend Article IV, Section 5 of the NMI Constitution to authorize the election of the Chief Justice and Presiding Judge by a majority of the Justices and Judges.

Among the witnesses expected to be present include Judge Robert C. Naraja of the CNMI Superior Court, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan of the CNMI Supreme Court, and Attorney General Matthew Gregory.

Witnesses are asked to submit written testimony to the committee on or before May 30, 2008. Members of the public are also welcome to submit

written or oral testimony.

The June 3 committee hearing will tackle three House legislative initiatives.

The first one, H.L.I. 16-6, seeks to amend the CNMI Constitution to require the adoption of an annual budget.

H.L.I. 16-7 seeks to amend the NMI Constitution to improve efficiency and accountability in the legislative branch of government.

The third one, H.L.I. 16-11, seeks to also amend the NMI Constitution to prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the General Fund except by appropriations made by law.

Witnesses invited to be present at this hearing include Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos

and Gregory. The public is also welcome to submit written or oral testimony.

The final public hearing on June 4 will tackle House Bill 16-38, CS1, which seeks to streamline the government employment process of the Commonwealth by repealing and re-enacting the civil service law, converting some government positions to the civil service, and establishing an administrative office of the courts.

Another bill, H.B. 16-86, will amend the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act to create a new immigration category, called "Resident Foreign National."

Comments will also be accepted for H.L.I. 16-2, which

would amend the NMI Constitution to authorize the election of an Attorney General.

Witnesses invited to be present at this hearing include Mathilda A. Rosario, Office of Personnel Management; Norbert S. Sablan, Civil Service Commission; Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas; Commerce Secretary James A. Santos; Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kyle Calabrese, Hotel Association of NMI chair Lynn Knight; Judge Robert C. Naraja; Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan; Maya B. Kara of the CNMI Bar Association, Gregory.

Witnesses are requested to submit written testimony to the Committee on or before June 2, 2008. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Tonga utility pulls plug on some govt agencies

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Tonga Broadcasting Commission)—Some government departments and ministries had their electricity supplies cut off beginning Friday because of unpaid bills.

Power company Shoreline Limited confirmed that all departments and ministries that had unpaid bills had had their electricity supplies cut off and the government school Tonga College had its electricity supply cut off Friday morning.

Sources from Tonga High School also revealed that the school's electricity supply had also been cut off due to unpaid bills.

Sources from Tonga College reveal that the school's unpaid electricity bills amount to about 5,000 pa'anga [US\$2,450], from the previous two months.

The military camp at Taliai also revealed that their electricity supply had been cut off Friday but was restored later in the day.

The power cuts have affected the schools especially with

classes like computer classes and industrial arts which require a running power supply. Also, with no power there cannot be print outs and photo copies for test materials or for classroom learning when needed.

Sources at the Tonga College in 'Atele say they are considering asking for help from the parents of the students to help in addressing this problem of unpaid electricity bills.

Meanwhile, information from the government Treasury reveals some ministries and departments who have used up their payment quotas but they can still be assisted given that they submit their requests in good time to the Ministry of Finance.

According to the Finance Ministry, most of the departments and ministries had already received notices of unpaid bills and notices for cutting off of their power supplies and they should have been in touch with the Ministry to deal with these pressing matters before the problem occurs.

Niue lawmaker suggests dumping asbestos at sea

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News)—A Niue member of parliament has suggested that the island country follow the Cook Islands' example and dumps asbestos at sea.

Four years on from cyclone Heta, the government is still trying to decide what to do with sheets of asbestos that were damaged by Cyclone Heta, which swept through the region in late 2003.

Some of the asbestos has been temporarily stored but the Niue government says it won't make any decisions until all of it is stockpiled.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, airborne asbestos fibers have been known to cause lung cancer.

Niue opposition Member of Parliament Terry Coe says he wants the asbestos dumped at sea. Speaking to New Zealand and Australian international radio this week, Coe said the best idea

is to do the same as the Cooks and dump the asbestos at sea.

"We could put it in containers and then hole the containers, take them out and just sink them out there."

Coe says he doesn't want to see it buried on Niue as there are worries about the asbestos getting into the drinking water.

Last November the Cook Islands government disposed of about 300 tonnes of asbestos on the old cargo vessel Miss Mataroa when the ship was scuttled.

The asbestos laden ship now lies about 10 nautical miles northwest of Rarotonga at a depth of over 3 kilometres on the sea floor.

Tapororoanga Ipukarea Society member Jolene Bosanquet led local environmentalists in protesting and asking government to consider their action. Greenpeace was even approached in an effort to raise international opposition to the move.

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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Lynn Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

In memoriam

“We’re still in growth mode right now,” said Bill Tuerk, under secretary for memorial affairs at the US Department of Veterans Affairs. “We’re in a very high demand time period and we’re trying to respond to it.”

There are 1,800 veterans who die each day, and 10 percent of them are buried in the country’s 125 national cemeteries. Last year and this year were projected to be peak years for veterans’ deaths. Some 686,000 WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans died in 2007.

Bill Tuerk will be forgiven the seeming callousness of his remarks on the “growth mode” of memorial services, but the facticity, or even the quantity of veterans dying is not the main focus of Memorial Day.

Flags at memorial parks will be at half-staff today, and there will be approximately 10 burials in each of the nation’s national cemeteries. But funerary services are hardly the day’s concern, and as Tom Brokaw’s *The Greatest Generation* alluded to, the quality of our living and dying in America is the primal concern.

Memorial Day began as Decoration Day after the US Civil War until it became a day of remembrance of all those in the armed forces who died in battle. Soon, it became a memorial for all who served in the armed forces, and in some sections of the southern USA, it is a day of remembering the dead, in the manner that we who were influenced by the Latin tradition commemorate All Souls’ Day.

A majority of the rhetoric of Memorial Day is on the virtue of sacrifice for one’s sovereign allegiance. This varies. The saying, “There are no atheists on a fox hole!” points to the fact that when fighting a war, one does not do so out of a selfish sense of protecting the prerogatives of the body, the satisfaction of the psyche and the pleasures of the flesh. One does so with a more comprehensive context that such terms like “love of country,” or “concern for one’s neighbor,” points to. It is not that suddenly a warrior believes in God; it is that the relinquishing of one’s life is done so with a larger than life vision.

Long time ago, at the flowering of Western Civilization in the Aegean, a primal city had to choose between the force of wisdom, Athena, and the deliverer of trident terror, Poseidon. Athena would win out. In classical Greece, the city-state of Sparta would represent militant discipline and order; Athens would be republican and democratic. Our State Department is Athenian; our Department of Defense is Spartan. Perhaps, in the primal concern of our living and dying, we might revisit the choice again.

Might we also remember the lives of the warriors of peace, the living and the dead, this day! For all, a moment of silence is in order.



Are we capable of running our own country?

This morning I have to be honest and state some feelings and confusion that I am suffering from. I wish someone would sit me down and make me understand why we cannot fix the CUC problem, and why we are fighting with the United States who has helped us to enjoy the lifestyle we have and keeps pouring endless amounts of money into our islands. We shouldn't keep criticizing people or a system unless we understand the real reasons why things happen as they do. I truly want to understand better. Please help

Let's discuss the first important issue—the CUC power fiasco! When I came to Saipan in January 1984, I quickly learned about the power system problems. During the years I have watched in awe how we continuously keep fouling every attempt to remedy this basic necessity for civilized and comfortable living.

I have watched as professional consultants after professional consultants paraded here and advised us on how to solve our power problems. After receiving their checks, they leave us with their notes. What do we do with them? We file them away.

Then company after company responds to our requests for proposals to repair or operate the power plant. No matter how sincere the various companies are, they are all chased away for some silly reason and their plans discarded. All this ends in a waste of time. Millions have been spent in trying to fix the plant and equipment but to no avail. And this has been going on longer than the 24 years I have been here.

Someone please explain to me and the other citizens how hundreds of intelligent men in the Legislature and Administration who have had the power to make changes, and the executive directors who actually operated the plant over the past 24 years could not, and still cannot, fix up a small power plant. I find this totally absurd. Today we are in worse shape than ever before. How can this be? Please explain why.

Let's look at our love-hate relationship with the United States. Back in 1986, we voted to become a member of the United States family. All of us received a U.S. passport without earning it or learning anything about our mother country or its philosophy. One night we went to bed and the next morning we woke up as U.S. citizens.

Despite all the time that the United States has given us to learn to regulate ourselves, we have ended up with a mandate from them that they will be controlling our immigration from now on. We whine and shout unfair because we cannot have our own way even when we blew the many chances given to us.

So today we are engaged in a love-hate relationship with the United States. We are even arrogant enough to speak of challenging them in court. Oh, yes, meanwhile we are asking for \$15 million to tide us over. Still the money keeps pouring in. How long can this last before the United States shouts: “Enough is enough?”

What is it about us that we cannot solve these problems year after year and after millions of dollars spent? I can come to only one conclusion. We, the citizens, are the culprits. Yes, I am blaming us.

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



We are to blame for all this mess. For some strange reason we don't want to fix them. How is it that with so many intelligent men and women concerned that instead of demanding the problems be resolved we just complain? Yet though we have the remedy at hand, we refuse to use it. Why do we stand by as sheep in a herd and merely whine?

We can't fix the problems this way. Every few years we vote for a new House of Representatives and for senators. That means that 28 men and women shout at us for months that if we elect or re-elect them, they will fix the problems.

Then every four years we have the great show in which we vote for the “Grand Chief” who will preside over us and guide us. He also screams and shouts how he is the one that will lead us to the “Promised Land.” He can order these problems fixed if he wants, but he doesn't. Instead we have political mumbo-gumbo and lots of posturing. What a farce and charade! And we the people keep silent and tolerate all this. Why do we allow this to continue?

So every November we run to the polls in childish belief re-electing them in the hope that they will make all the wrongs and hurt go away. I want to believe that some of them are truly serious and desire to champion the needs of the community. But something happens to these few after they become inducted into the “club.”

Earlier I said that we are the real culprits for allowing our leaders to shortchange us year after year. Why do we keep electing the same officials term after term when they do nothing to correct our problems? Why do we tolerate them? Isn't there anyone in the Legislature who has what we Italians call “caldrons?”

Some of these people have been in the Legislature for many years, and term after term are re-elected, yet they do nothing to solve the problems. The government has become a job for them. Do nothing, don't make waves and the family will vote you back in. Do you wonder then why our problems still haunt us? Professional lawmakers become retreads after much use.

I thought that experience and love for our country would enlighten some of them to act. But no. They prefer to stay quiet and go along with the herd. Why are we so foolish? Why don't we strongly let them know our dissatisfaction? Why are we so passive? By tolerating these do-nothing people, we deserve what we are getting today. The CUC will be the same after 24 more years and our relationship

See ARE on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A financial meltdown

It has become a rather realistic tragicomic comment to respond to the query, “Who do you work for?” with the knee-jerk answer of “CUC and the gas station.” Equally significant is the pain-filled chuckle that ensues from both the asking and answering parties. Indeed, the pricing decisions of both these organizations have pretty much defined the level of expenditure most of us on island incur.

You know you have hit bottom when you pay the water deliveryman in rolled pennies that you normally designate for the annual DYS penny drive. You know you’re on your way to bankruptcy when you ask your maid if she still has some money stashed under her mattress that you can use for 14 days because the last check you wrote will be \$6 short. And the last time that happened, you had to answer to the bank’s automatic charges for an overdrawn account, as well as pay the receiving party’s fees to her bank for the insufficient fund’s charge she was levied when she deposited your check!

Then there are (is, if one is prudent) the credit cards. I could include the burden of loans but I do not have much asset that the bank would consider an acceptable collateral so, by default, I have been spared that danger-laced yet momentarily luxuriant avenue. Still, I’ve reached the national average of \$9,000 per annum indebtedness, and in the absence of real estate to allow for a convenient refinancing, I am stuck in the proverbial high interest creek.

For those of us who had labored to instill financial responsibility to individuals and families, as well as small businesses and civil community organizations, the rule of thumb has been that one’s coffers should hold the equivalent of three months worth of gross income as minimum fluid asset available for daily operations. I had myself followed that rule save the last five years when it became evident that the Saipan economy was on a crash dive, income was not about to rise, promises of raises notwithstanding, and one’s circle of responsibility, intentionally acquired or inherited by default, kept expanding while the resource stayed constant at face value, and thanks to Mr. Bush and Iraq, declined in actual purchasing power.

Is it any wonder that the best and brightest amongst us, the young and upcoming, as well as the established and flourishing, have taken the

Mosaic path of exodus, realizing that many a pharaoh of the political and economic realms are wearing no clothes, and they were not about to be bothered to be the ones to point it out.

It is a futile exercise to point fingers at who might be blamed. Nor is this telling using the example of one’s personal predicament an act of not-so-subtle exhibitionism. I narrate my situation to invite others to reflect on their own situation and perhaps, identify causes so that one might engage in objectifying underlying contradictions, rather than just comfortably wallow in the griping and whining that seems to accompany our current common situation.

That financial meltdown is happening at all levels of our island’s social life—from corporations to individual earners, agency budgets to publicly appropriated institutions, families to private enterprises—is a given. That our response stretches the gamut of delusions and denials on one extreme, to bureaucratic paralysis and snail-pace caution on the other, and a wide range of options in between, makes the current situation at once bewildering and challenging. As Shakespeare observed a long time ago, “Nothing is good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” The adequate and effective response to our situation, like any other where we chose between seeing a dilemma or an opportunity, is a matter of attitude.

I came on island to serve as an executive officer of a service-oriented institution and when it became evident that my income and benefits will have to be borne by those who I represented but whose income is not even a third of what I would be receiving, that immediately presented a contradiction of ethical proportions. More so as I recently came from the mendicant processes of a secular-religious order whose level of sustainability was based on shared corporate funds at par with the poverty level of those we served. That did not allow much leeway for the commerce of much consumptive and derivative pleasures.

As the late Fr. Gary Bradley, S. J. used to say over lunch when he invariably picked up the tab at Coffee Care, “My congregation gives me more than I need, and it is only right that funds are expended to where they are best used.” It was a credit his ecumenical spirit that he would share his assets to the off springs of the Protestant Reformation.

It is no consolation that those who followed my feeble effort to es-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.

establish an economically self-sustaining service delivery operation, had not fared any better. Given my professional background on all kinds of pedagogy, I segued into the public school system, only to encounter a bureaucratic shortsightedness that bordered into the criminal. First, I have a Masters degree that was not immediately recognized so I came in on the entry level of remuneration. Since PSS operated on two-year contract cycles, when my Masters degree was finally recognized, it could not be retroactive.

I then applied for a Standard Certification which was not immediately granted because I did not have a vellum that claimed I had passed a course in culture and classroom management. It did not matter that I was in the Board of the Humanities that did nothing but promote the humanities’ side of local culture, and as a former Peace Corps trainer, cross-cultural training was at the core in the curriculum; nor did it matter that I wrote a ‘how-to’ book on training for USAID and that my principal’s rating was tops on the rating scale. Being HQT and chosen TOY by my school did not count. But I mellowed and paid my dues, partially helped by the promise that once the paperwork was adhered to, that the benefits would be retroactive to the start of the contract period.

Silly me, on the above promise, I took out the plastic and procured a laptop and other electronic devices that I use in my classroom. PSS reneged on its promise. The slippery slope of credit card indebtedness followed. With \$6 remaining disposable income after every pay period, it is nigh high to wrestle down the contradictions. Make that next week.

Letter to the Editor

Quid pro quo, and here we go

To Mr. Mario Q. Taisacan:

It is Mister Taisacan, is it not, Mario, or did the *Tribune* inadvertently misprint the name “Maria?” If I address you improperly, please forgive me. I assume you are a man, not a woman who hides behind a mask of garbled grammar and disjointed gibberish. In any case, let’s discuss who, whom or what is really confused about facts. It is you, Mario. Your writing reveals a man risibly deluded by misapprehension, possibly caused, I speculate, by overindulgence in the alkaloids of the Areca nut or by an apparent under-indulgence in scholarship, or both. So please allow me to unveil myself, disambiguate my identity and disabuse you of some stuporous solecisms.

You ask that I “come back to the CNMI and explain” how I obtained my “nationality,” and so I will, even though I haven’t actually gone anywhere.

a.) I am K.F.H. OHarnett, an occasionally choleric, but generally lucid, vintage Anglo-Saxon American citizen male. And even if growing a bit long in the tooth these days, I have all 32 of my natural teeth. I played some collegiate football (back in the day) and, so am accustomed to hitting hard when necessary. And you might call me, “Sir,” if you feel a wave of civility sweep over you. It’s a good masculine appellation. But whatever the case, I would be a Madame only in your sordid fantasies, I’m afraid. Any questions?

b.) Furthermore, no alien resident am I. I am a native-born U.S. citizen (Chicago, IL) whose maternal family dates its presence in North America to Revolutionary times. My maternal progenitors were English colonists in America. They were of the family Prindle. You do understand “familia,” don’t you? At any rate, they were on hand at the beginning when the concept of U.S. citizenship originated. Therefore I come from an unbroken line of original U.S. citizens. And you?

c.) On my paternal side I come from early 19th century Ameri-

cans with Germanic roots. I am the only son of Lt. Kenneth Frank Hodson, United States Army Air Corps (SN: 0735869), who was killed in action the night of Nov. 29, 1944, while flying the B-29 aircraft, Z [Square] 44, from Isley Field, Saipan with the 883rd Bomb Squadron, 500th Bomb Group, 73rd Bomb Wing, United States Army Air Corps on a bombing mission to Tokyo. He died in the waters near these shores when his plane either exploded or crashed at sea. My initials, K.F.H., are from my father’s name. I am Kenneth Frank Hodson Jr. but was later adopted and raised by a stepfather, OHarnett. Capiche?

d.) My paternal grandfather, General Fremont Byron Hodson, United States Army, was a protégé of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander of the WWII Pacific Theater. At the end of the war, after the defeat of the Japanese Empire, my grandfather was nominated by Gen. MacArthur and served with U.S. Congressional approval as post-war Governor of Japan, 1945 - 1946. Google it if you’re incredulous. Good enough?

Now let me summarize it for you this way, Mario. My father died flying from Saipan, while participating in the liberation of the Marianas. He and his cohorts freed the people of the Marianas from the despotic Imperial Japanese Empire. Americans, my people as it was then, initiated a chain of events in the Marianas that later allowed you, Greg Cruz and many others to have the historically recent privilege to be U.S. citizens with me. Your lecture about my station on this island betrays your ignorance of history, not mine, as well as your ingratitude to the import of that history, along with an unsophisticated audacity and a cringing xenophobia.

An understanding of local current events would also inform you that the old 48-star coffin flag that was returned to my father’s widow, my mother, Margaret Grant Hodson, after his sacrifice in liberating your putative “homeland,” was raised again recently on this island above an assemblage of students and dignitaries at the Marianas High School Gym. That flag flew over the change of

command of the ethnically and nationally diverse, citizen and non-citizen, Marianas High School JROTC battalion.

In a metaphoric, if not a literal, sense, my ancestral blood is in the sands of this island as surely as yours is. So I will ignore your request that I leave these islands that are as much my home as they are yours, my fellow American citizen. I will be going nowhere unless I make the decision for myself, and when I do, it will be on my terms exclusively. And when I return, I won’t ask your permission.

So, who, then, Mario, is more the alien? And who is the less? Is it you, or is it me? Is there a distinction, or are we coequals? Is our national identity legally superior to or subordinate to the parochial island identity? Is ethnicity a higher determiner of status than citizenship? Would ethnic cleansing in the Marianas appease your apprehensions? Who should vacate first? Would you, as a latter day American citizen, be willing to assume the distinction of being an alien in the American nation?

Now what do you say, Mario, that you do your part to make the Marianas a place of inclusiveness, equanimity, dignity, acceptance and reason? Couldn’t we use a few more citizens here who could be your neighbors just as I am? Huh, what do you say? The only thing you’ve got to lose by being inhumane and selfish is your mortal soul, or so some of your other convictions would suggest. In the absence of that, you might want to consider going back to the land of your ethnic origin, be it another island, association, federation, republic, monarchy, nation or other. Tickets are only going to get more expensive. If you’re really as uncomfortable as you seem to be about my being here, you might want to do something unusual. You might want to give it some “thought.” The people who consider themselves good Americans in the Marianas will hold the fort while you’re away. It’s a promise.

K.F.H. Oharnett

Via e-mail

ARE

From Page 10

with Uncle Sam will continue to be stretched to the breaking point.

As I said earlier, please sit me down and enlighten me. How is it that hundreds of intelligent legislators and governors with all their

highly paid staff and advisors over the last 24 years cannot solve these problems?

I would welcome a frank discussion on these matters over lunch with any legislator. I will buy. I want to know why we cannot solve our problems. And please don’t tell me that we don’t have the money. I am not attacking any individual or group. I simply want decisive action to resolve these two problems.






If I am too blunt, it is because we need strong fearless leaders. We need men who are willing to sacrifice themselves much as a soldier does in battle. Our country is crying for leaders who have the courage to demand that our problems be solved.

It will take only one strong voice to start the change. Do we have one? Where is he? Is it any wonder that the United States is concerned with the question: Are we capable of running our own country?

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲83 ▼75

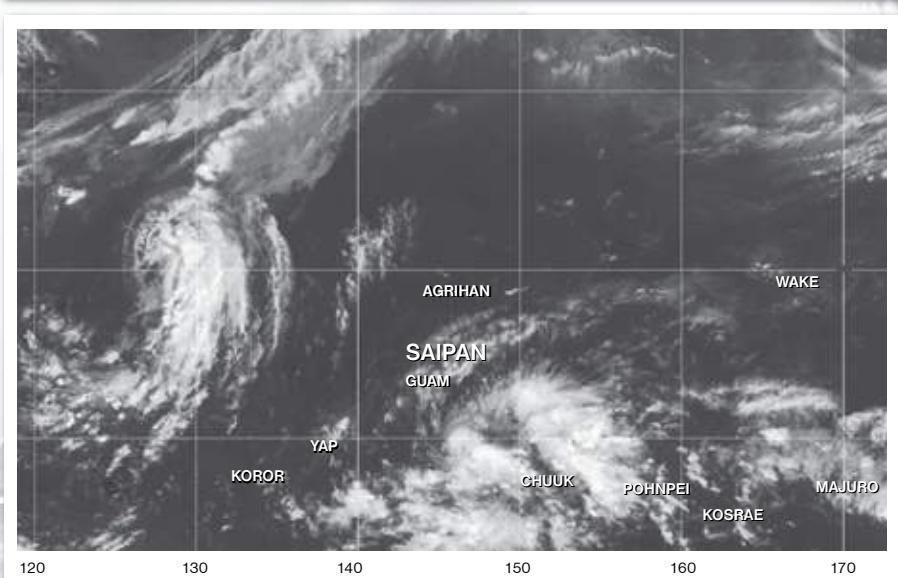
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲57 ▼49
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲96 ▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲83 ▼73
London	Cloudy	▲74 ▼61
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼56
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲59 ▼50
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼73
New York	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼55
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼60
Paris	Rain	▲68 ▼63
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼67
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲91 ▼63
Salem	Showers	▲68 ▼51
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲67 ▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼53
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼62
Washington, DCT	hundershowers	▲81 ▼60

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:43AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:15AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:16AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:55PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging south winds associated with a trough of low pressure and a low-level circulation centered near 21N129E are generating scattered showers and isolated along the northwestern portion of the discussion area from 15N to 25N and west of 133E. South of the Marianas and in the vicinity of Chuuk a surface trough extends south from 12N148E through a weak circulation centered near 4N142E and ends near EQ142E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of Chuuk island from 2N to 9N between 143E and 151E and also within 100 miles of a line from 12N148E to 7N157E. This line falls southeast of the Mariana Islands and just west of Pohnpei. Further out and southeast of Yap and Palau. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are observed on satellite imagery extending from the equator to 7N between 138E and 143E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the vicinity of Kwajalein and Majuro and eastward to the dateline within 100 miles of a line from 9N165E to 5N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:42PM
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:42PM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:43PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:43PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:43PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:37PM	10:33AM
Tuesday		11:25AM
Wednesday	12:16AM	12:16PM
Thursday	12:54AM	1:08PM
Friday	1:32AM	2:02PM

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 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE WITH UNPAID ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS
LABOR CASES AND AGENCY CASES CASES
May 19, 2008, first notice
May 26, 2006, second notice

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING CASES:
Each of the cases listed below has been submitted by the ombudsman's office to the Department of Labor as a case involving an administrative order issued by a hearing officer at the Administrative Hearing Office as to which there is an award of monetary damages that has not been paid in part or in full amount. The ombudsman's office has not provided the Department with copies of these orders (only a list of cases), therefore complainants will need to provide their own copies.
Any complainant who wishes assistance with respect to these unpaid administrative orders should come to the Round House, Garapan Central Park, on May 28, 2008, on the following schedule:
Last names beginning with A-G 9:00 a.m.
Last names beginning with H-N 10:00 a.m.
Last names beginning with O-Z 11:00 a.m.

Family name	Given name	Case number	Date of award	Family name	Given name	Case number	Date of award	Family name	Given name	Case number	Date of award
Abadilla	Ariel F.	CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Guzman	Andres Teel	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Patricio	Joey P.	CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07
Abaygar	Zenaida	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Guzman	Elvira Nicolas	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Patricio	Nenita F.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Abaygar	Zenaida	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Habibur		CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07	Paul	Bhola Nath	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Acabal	Vivian H.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Habibur		CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Peralta	Elsie O.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Africa	Nenita	LC#04-580	3/16/07	Habibur		CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Phonsan	Sudarath	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Africa	Nenita	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Haque	Easha	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Phrommuang	Arisa	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Aguirre	Evelyn N.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Heneral	Anita D.	CAS#05-023-03	8/23/05	Prakobun	Sasiphong	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Ahmed	Mohammad Feroj	LC#96-580/600/ and 97-616	6/2/03	Homayan	Kabir	LC#96-580/600/ and 97-616	10/22/03	Pulido	Marliou J.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Ahmed	Sohel	LC#07-238	12/3/07	Hossain	Anwar	CAC#98-079	6/12/07	Qian	Xiao Li	CV#07-0017	12/17/07
Alam	Kazi Masud	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Anwar	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Qing	Xian Xu	CAC#05-052-04	11/15/07
Alam	Md. Shah	LC#03-138	5/22/07	Hossain	Atm Mozaffour	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Quader	Abdul	LC#98-328/346/416	2/28/03
Alam	Md. Shah	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Babul	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Quevedo	Alicia R.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Alfaro	Lorna E.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Hossain	Md. Alamgir	CA#04-0025	6/12/05	Quirino Jr.	M. Gallar	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06
Ali Khan	Md. Leakat	LC#97-325	10/18/06	Hossain	Nur	CAC#00-194-09	10/24/07	Ragasa	Rose Marie	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Aliman	Doloras	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Hossain	Nur	CAC#99-447-12	10/24/07	Rahman	Md. Habibur	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07
Almazol	Danilo	CAC#01-093-06	6/17/06	Hossain	Shakhawat	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Rahman	Md. Moklesur	LC#03-044	3/5/07
Almazol	Danilo L.	CAC#01-093-06	6/17/06	Huang	Bing Hong	CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Ramos	Luis	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Ambrocio	Villamin Baing	LC#07-236	12/3/07	Huang	Jin Kun	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Ramos	Rosalinda T.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Andaya	Daniel Q.	CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Huang	Ruijun	CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Raper	George Billena	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07
Andebor	Renaluz	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Ibanez	Nilo D.	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Raquepo	Roberto	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07
Andrada	Gilda M.	LC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Imbanboek	Suwanna	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Rashid	Hamidur	CAC#02-098-12	4/10/07
Antalan	Eduardo B.	LC#00-212	7/23/03	Inao	Welly Kilat	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Raut	Raja Ram	LC#07-145	12/11/07
Aque	Diosdado A.	CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07	Isidro	Romel C.	LC#04-617	3/16/07	Rebamba	Johnny	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Aque	Garry Racoma	CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07	Isidro	Ryan C.	LC#04-617	3/16/07	Reginio	Bernadeth	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Aque	Roswell A.	CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07	Islam	Md. Hafizul	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Reginio	Evelyn	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Arlay	Ailene	LC#98-370	3/16/07	Islam	Mohammed Aminoor	LC#98-538	8/8/05	Reyes	Lamberto	CAC#02-098-12	
Arnaldo	Aurora A.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Islam	Shafiqul	LC#98-328/346/416	2/28/03	Ricardo	Dulay B.	CA#01-0039	6/10/02
Arriola	Rosa D.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Jacela	Jonathan P.	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Rojas	Reynaldo D.	LC#07-121	6/19/07
Babilia	Punay D.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Jacob	Jesus B.	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Rondares	Wilson A.	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06
Balasto	Melquides C.	CAC#99-447-12	11/6/07	Jaman	Kamruzz	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Rubis	Imelda	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Balili	Lo Manuel	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Jankun	Em-Ron	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Ruiang	Huang	LC#04-797	3/14/07
Barbo	Wilfredo M.	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Javier	Elmer Comandnte	CAC#01-024	1/5/03	Ruiz	Ramil F.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Barol	Peter P.	CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Ji	Cheng Xiang	CAC#04-025-05		Rull	Evelyn J.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Barrozo	Elma	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Ji	Ching Xiang	LC#07-085	8/7/07	Sabugo	Alejandro	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07
Baruela	Enrique T.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Ji	Ching Xiang	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Sagun	Imelda	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Baruela	Rafaela N.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Jing	Zhi Qiang	LC#07-088	8/8/07	Salazar	Lucila C.	CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07
Batallones	Shirley	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Khairul	Hasan Bhuiyan	CA#04-0025	6/12/05	Saludes	Meriam Enriquez	LC#07-115	8/6/07
Bendana	Marivic	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Khankaew	Baothiang	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Samelo	Felizardo Naval	LC#00-325	5/14/07
Benemerito	Ortega Enrico	LC#07-123	10/1/07	Khokseamnuay	Nirubon	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	San Gabrial	Corazon	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Bernido	Marlow	CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Khokseamnuay	Nirubon	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Santiago	Arsenia Duenas	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07
Bhuiyan,	Md. Nazir Ahamed	CAC#02-098-12	4/10/07	Kiseo	Salvador C.	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Santos	Cabrera Roberto	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Caacbay	Juanita G.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Laborce	Angelo Miclat	LC#05-222	7/7/06	Santos	Enrico P.	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06
Cabalza	Lucille Sison	LC#07-070	9/6/07	Lacson	Bernabe R.	CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07	Sapo	Asuncion	LC#04-619	3/14/07
Cabaya	Loana A.	CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Lacson	Bornabe R.	CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07	Sawnga	Arnel Homelde	CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07
Cadauan	Regina	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Ladi	Josephine V.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Semana	Ednaly N.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Cai	Zhen	LC#03-257	5/14/07	Lamphung	Wangkhooklang	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Shrees Magar	Bhadhur Dudha	LC#04-706	11/18/04
Camaddu	Willy L.	LC#02-129	2/10/03	Langit	Fidel Martin	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Sibulo	Carmen M.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Campollo	Cadarin Herminia	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Lapeceros	Danilo S.	CAC#95-00036	11/16/04	Simpilo	Evelyn	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Cao	Ting Wei	LC#07-223	12/13/07	Lapeceros	Segundo Jr. S.	CAC#95-00036	11/16/04	Sobremisana	Rosita G.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Capina	Necita V.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Legaspi	Marichu V.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Soriben	Nely Andes	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Carcueva	Caballas Isabelita	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Li	Aing Feng	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Sorrosa	Dante B.	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06
Carino	Adona D.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Li	Bing Yan	CAC#98-191-10	12/27/05	Sritrong	Jittra	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Cartagena	Lina B.	CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07	Li	Denghong	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Su	Wo Hui	CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06
Casabuna	Amorsolo De Leon	CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Li	Fengchun	LC#06-224	8/17/07	Sun	Ya Fang	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06
Castillo	Gloria G.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Li	Jin Feng	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Sunio	Simplicia	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Castro	Alicia G.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Li	Qing Feng	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Sunisa	Pitaprom	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Casuga	Juanita M.	CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Liang	Fang Ming	CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Supati	Froilan Sr.	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06
Cervances	Jose A.	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Lin	Dong Xiang	CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Taesanthiah	Duongta K.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Chai Chana	Prajrup	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Lin	Fu Xing	LC#00-294	5/10/07	Taguibao	Emily Navarro	LC#06-329	3/26/07
Chankoon	Chalao	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Liu	Aimin	CAC#04-019-03 CAC#03-006-02	5/21/07	Taiting	Fong Yan Yang	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06
Chen	Bixia	CAC#02-025-05	10/12/06	Liu	Qiong Di	CR-03-00043-001		Talarde	Estelita A.	CA#04-0025	4/19/05
Chen	Hui Zhu	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Liu	Shun Li	CR-03-00043-001	2/18/05	Tenorio	Teresita P.	LC#07-018	
Chen	Jian Hua	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Liu	Shun Li	LC#04-412	3/9/07	Thapthim	Kanchanamongkhon	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Chen	Li Yi	LC#03-34	3/5/07	Liu	Xing Guo	LC#07-090	8/7/07	Tiamzow	Cecilia S.	CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06
Chen	Miao Ci	LC#01-180	3/16/07	Liu	Zhen Hong	CR-03-00043-001	2/18/05	Tong	Ai Juan	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Chen	Wen Sheng	CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Lizano	J. Yecia	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05	Torio	Conrado M.	CA#01-093-06	5/14/03
Chen	Xin Zhao	CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Limado	Arsenia	CA#04-0025	4/19/05	Tuazon	Bonifacio A.	CAC#05-023-03	8/23/05
Chen	Ya Mei	CAC#04-025-0									

Business

Guam's real estate market cooling down

Even as median housing price hits new high

Guam's real estate market cooled significantly during the first quarter of 2008 compared with the recent peak activity in 2007, while the median price of a Guam single family dwelling increased to a new high.

Captain Real Estate Group's database of all transaction activity reflected sales volume of \$98 million during the first quarter of 2008, a drop of 43 percent from the average quarterly activity in 2007, and a decline of over 50 percent from the peak second quarter of 2007, which reflected \$202 million in islandwide real estate sales volume.

Nick Captain, president of the Captain Real Estate Group of companies, said the slowdown was expected. "The figures for the fourth quarter of 2007 were surprisingly high at \$135 million in sales. We didn't see that coming. But for a while now, we've been telling our clients that the transaction volume and price growth rates experienced between 2004 and 2007 were unsustainable. A period of stabilization or slower growth is healthy and will allow for economic growth to catch up with the recent run-up in real estate prices," said Captain.

The most recent quarterly real estate sales activity was the lowest in two years.

The sales volume declines impacted all sectors of the market, according to Captain's database. Single-family residential sales volume of \$37 million reflected a decline of 22 percent compared with average 2007 sales volume. The condominium sector reflected sales volume of \$13 million, or a decline of 38 percent from average activity in 2007. First quarter sales however, included the \$1.2 million sale of a Tumon beachfront condominium. Land sales were down by over 20 percent during the first quarter of 2008, even with the \$10 million sale of former federal excess land in Tiyan. The commercial, industrial and apartment sectors were all down considerably, but these sectors tend to reflect increased volatility due to the relatively limited number of transactions and widely fluctuating prices. "To some extent, the slowdown reflects actions by the government as massive fee increases, infrastructure hook-up costs and other expenses leave developers with lower potential profits and less incentive to purchase land and develop," noted Captain.

The sales volume slowdown did not reverse the upward trend in median pricing for Guam housing. The median price of a single family dwelling dur-

ing the first quarter of 2008 reflected \$206,000, an increase of 5 percent compared with the 2007 median price. However, sales activity in this sector slowed to 156 units, the lowest number of quarterly sales in two years. The increase in median pricing resulted primarily from a continuing shift toward newly constructed houses.

The initial wave of military-expansion related investment has subsided and in Captain's opinion, the slowdown in market activity is positive news. "On a long-term basis, a temporary slowdown is healthy. Recent buyers need time to digest acquisitions, the widening gap between seller and buyer expectations needs to close, income levels need to increase and the economy needs to grow in order to support recent price increases," he said. "Our real estate market is substantially driven by foreign investment and capital flows. We expect that the next wave of military-expansion related foreign investment will hit in late 2009 or early 2010, just before major construction activity commences."

A slowdown means that there is a narrow window of opportunity to enter Guam's real estate market, which Captain expects to heat up significantly between 2010 and 2014. (PR)

Existing home sales drop in April

WASHINGTON (AP)—Existing home sales fell for the eighth time in the past nine months, a string of weakness expected to continue as the housing industry, mired in its worst slump in decades, battles falling home prices, tight lending conditions and a weak economy.

The National Association of Realtors reported Friday that existing home sales dropped by 1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.89 million units, matching the all-time low set in January. These records, which cover single-family homes and condominiums, go back to 1999.

The median price for an existing home dropped 8 percent, compared with a year ago, to \$202,300. It was the second largest price decline on record and analysts predicted prices would fall further in the months ahead given the huge backlog of unsold single-family homes.

The number of unsold single-family homes in April rose to a 10.7 months supply at the current sales pace, the highest level since June 1985.

"The housing market continues to slide away. The

very large increase in inventories suggests that there are much larger price declines coming," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average ended a week of big losses by declining further on Friday, falling 145.99 points to close at 12,479.63. It was the Dow's worst week since early February with investors rattled by the relentless rise in energy prices.

The housing industry is being battered by a prolonged slump that has seen sales and prices fall sharply in many parts of the country and mortgage foreclosures soar. The slump in housing and a related credit crunch, which has resulted in multibillion-dollar losses at some of the nation's largest financial institutions, has depressed overall economic growth and raised worries about a possible recession.

Those troubles, along with soaring gasoline prices and higher job layoffs, have sent consumer confidence plunging, making a housing recovery even more difficult.

"Credit remains tight, the economy is losing jobs and

house prices are falling in more places and at an accelerated rate," said Patrick Newport, an economist at Global Insight. "All of this adds up to a dismal house-selling season."

Newport said he expected existing home sales would keep falling until the end of this year, probably dropping by another 10 percent, before starting a gradual recovery early next year.

He predicted home prices would continue to slide probably until next spring because the rising tide of mortgage foreclosures meant even more homes were being dumped on an already glutted market, further depressing prices.

As prices fall, it keeps more people sitting on the fence, analysts said, because prospective buyers don't want to purchase an asset that has the potential to fall further in price if they delay making the purchase.

"With prices collapsing, the incentive not to buy a home is increasing by the week, and with inventory showing no sign of improvement, prices will keep falling," predicted Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

Gas roars higher, pressuring holiday travelers

NEW YORK (AP)—As consumers began hitting the road Friday for the Memorial Day weekend, they faced the sobering reality that it now costs \$87 to fill a Ford Explorer SUV, up \$14 from last year, and \$72 to fill a mid-sized Honda Accord, up \$12.

That's because gas prices, which took another jump higher overnight, are up nearly 20 percent, or 65 cents a gallon, over the past year to average nearly \$3.88 a gallon nationally. But unlike this time last year, when gas prices were at their peak for 2007, pump prices now show no signs of halting their daily assault on the record books.

"Four dollars (a gallon) is a done deal now," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill. "We could go significantly above that."

On average, drivers in Alaska, Connecticut, California, New York and Illinois are already paying more than \$4 for gas, and an increasing number of stations around the country are



Mahesa Kumar changes gas prices outside a station in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

posting prices higher than \$4. In Alaska, where the average price of regular gas stood at a national

high of \$4.181 Friday, it now costs \$94 to fill an Explorer, and \$77 to fill an Accord.

Microsoft to shut down book scanning operations

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp. is abandoning its effort to scan whole libraries and make their contents searchable, a sign it may be getting choosier about the fights it will pick with Google Inc.

The world's largest software maker is under pressure to show it has a coherent strategy for turning around its unprofitable online business after its bid for Yahoo Inc., last valued at \$47.5 billion, collapsed this month.

Digitizing books and ar-

chiving academic journals no longer fits with the company's plan for its search operation, wrote Satya Nadella, senior vice president of Microsoft's search and advertising group, in a blog post Friday.

Microsoft will take down two separate sites for searching the contents of books and academic journals next week, and Live Search will direct Web surfers looking for books to non-Microsoft sites, the company said.

Nadella said Microsoft will

focus on "verticals with high commercial intent."

"We believe the next generation of search is about the development of an underlying, sustainable business model for the search engine, consumer and content partner," Nadella wrote.

At an advertising confab at Microsoft's Redmond, Wash., headquarters this week, he demonstrated a new system that rewards customers with cash rebates for using Live Search to find and buy items on advertisers' sites.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tech tops financials in S&P; energy on the rise

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time since the bubble burst earlier this decade, information technology stocks have overtaken financials as the largest sector by market value in the Standard & Poor's 500 index. But that alignment might not last for long—soaring oil prices have helped lift the energy sector to a close third. For the last 10 years, tech and financials have gone back and forth as the leading sector in the index. Tech grabbed about 32 percent of the S&P by early 2000, but quickly gave up that lead as the sector lost its luster amid the dot-com crash. A little over a year later, financial stocks had become Wall Street's favorites, and kept the top spot in the S&P until this past Tuesday. While they never reached the heights tech did during the boom years, financials did account for more than 22 percent of the S&P by late 2006. Now, both sectors hover just above 16 percent, with tech ahead marginally. And energy companies, led by oil producers like Exxon

Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp., could be in position to soon take the lead.

Societe Generale cites lax management

PARIS (AP)—Investigators at Societe Generale SA say they suspect former futures trader Jerome Kerviel was helped by an assistant to cover up massive trading positions that led to a multibillion dollar loss. In two long-awaited reports released Friday, the investigators said the French bank's management failures and culture of risk-taking were partly to blame for failing to spot the positions, which led to a loss of more than \$7 billion once they were unwound. Investigators say Kerviel's bosses missed more than 1,000 faked trades; a huge jump in his earnings in 2007; questions about his trades from the Eurex exchange; unusually high levels of cash flow, accounting anomalies, and high brokerage expenses; Kerviel's failure to take vacation; and his breach of the desk's market risk limit on one position.

Nation

Veterans' burials nonstop at national cemeteries

RITTMAN, Ohio (AP)—The cracking of rifle fire silenced the twittering blue jays, blackbirds and killdeer.

As members of the color guard lowered their rifles, the smell of bitter smoke drifted over the family and friends of former Army Sgt. Ellis Hale, a Vietnam War veteran who died of prostate cancer at age 59. Sniffles and gentle sobs accompanied a recording of taps.

Moments after the final note, Sherry Hale walked down a curved brick walkway past the saluting line of representatives of the country's past wars. Head bowed, she clutched to her chest the American flag that covered her husband's casket.

The scene at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery is repeated nationwide more than 100 times a day. Military veterans are being buried at such a rapid rate that national cemeteries use heavy equipment to make room.

"We're still in growth mode right now," said Bill Tuerk, under secretary for memorial affairs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. "We're in a very high demand time period and we're trying to respond to it."

An average of 1,800 veterans die each day, and 10 percent of them are buried in the country's 125 national cemeteries, which are expected to set a record with 107,000 interments, including dependents, this year. And more national cemeteries are being built.

The peak year for veterans' deaths will be either 2007 or 2008, Tuerk said. An estimated 686,000 veterans died in 2007. While many World War II veterans are dying, so are an increased number of Korean War and Vietnam veterans.

Ohio Western Reserve, a 273-acre expanse south of Cleveland, opened in 2000 and has about 11,000 veterans and dependents buried there. It has enough land to keep it open 92 more years and accommodate a total of 106,000 burials.

Thirty-four veterans groups volunteer for services. Every seventh Thursday members of American Legion Post 548 from Louisville, Ohio, dressed in black coats, ties and pants with white belts, gloves and shoulder cords, come to pay tribute to fellow veterans.

One crisp spring morning, dozens of mourners for Hale more than filled the benches inside a stone open-air shelter tucked into a wooded corner.

Several jumped as the seven members of Post 548 fire the first of three volleys. The shell casings faintly ping and clatter as they landed on the brick walkway.

"Every time I fire, I say 'This is for you,'" says Navy veteran Dave Scanlon, choking up while referring to his father, "Skip," a World War II veteran who died in 1999.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING DENIAL APPEALS
FOR MAY 29 & 30, 2008 & JUNE 05 & 06, 2008

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-499	Dumpit, Amy Marcella A.	Aranda, Roxanne D.	May 29, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-102	Magbanua, Riza B.	Asia Pacific Overseas Inc.	May 30, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-493	Jin, Yufen	Big Bell Inc.	May 29, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-484	Martinez, Larry S.	Brant, Sally S.	May 29, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-483	Wang, Ju	Cabrera, Fuyun Ya	May 29, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-553	Dai, Hai Qin	Caihua Corporation	June 6, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-521	Seno, Anita Linda G.	Camacho, Aida A.	May 30, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-542	Fabon, Conchita E.	Camacho, Andres T.	June 6, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-547	Rivera, Raul M.	Camacho, Anita A.	June 6, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-469	Quimen Jr., Pablo A.	Camacho, Antonio S.	May 29, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-528	Concepcion, Kermit	Commercial Trading of Spn. Inc.	June 5, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-546	Fernandez, Cora M.	D L Corporation	June 6, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-533	Ruga, Cirila L.	Dayrit, Amado G.	June 6, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-480	Verano, Shirley S.	Dela Cruz, Cristina B.	May 29, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-340	Martinez, Rosmari N.	Elizah Gemme Store	June 5, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-309	Gomez, Eddie Dlc.	Elms Inc.	May 29, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-563	Xu, Wangzheng	Hawaii Corporation	May 30, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-561	Cantalejo, Rolando D.	Inter Pacific Resort Corp.	May 30, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-557	Wang, Jianhua	Javili General Partnership	June 6, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-559	Santos, Eugenio Jr., C.	Kintol, James P.	May 30, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-238	He, Chuan	Lucky De Corp.	June 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-237	Wu, Zhi Ren	Lucky De Corp.	June 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-422	Guan, Qili	Luo's Corporation	June 5, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-549	Arsenal, Sonia M.	Macatangay Dermhealth Spn,LLC	June 6, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-571	Doca, Rito B.	MAC-US Int'l. Inc.	May 30, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-517	Crisostomo, Pepe R.	Marianas Security Corporation	May 30, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-505	Aguirre, Evelyn	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc.	May 30, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-502	Parocha, Eduardo S.	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc.	May 30, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-504	Sibulo, Carmen	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc.	May 30, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-503	Sicat, Suzette M.	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc.	May 30, 2008	9:00 a.m.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-507	Tulali, George S.	Micronesian Woodcraft Ent.	May 30, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-474	Pan, Yi Bin	New Pacificaisia Trading, Inc.	May 29, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-534	Valencia, Ramon E.	One Call Incorporated	June 6, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-527	Manipon, Henry P.	One Coin Diving Inc.	May 30, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-531	Retirado, Beulah M.	Orilly, Marilyn P.	June 5, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-479	Zhao, Yang	Peace Asia Pacific Corporation	May 29, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-240	Licop, Bernard Oliver C.	Provident Corporation	June 5, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-160	Apas, Renee P.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	May 30, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-530	Bachicha, Ruben S.	Ramangmou, Thomas	June 5, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-516	Lumahan, Danny A.	Resources Mgmt. Int'l. Corp.	May 30, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-158	Entendez, Romeo Jr., L.	Roberto, Juan B.	May 29, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-548	Penarubia, Daisy A.	Sablan, Patrick P.	June 6, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-529	Deseo, Maricar I.	SBR Ent. Inc.	June 5, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-473	Suarez, Rodrigo R.	Se Young Corporation	May 29, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-488A	Suarez, Rodrigo R.	Se Young Corporation	May 29, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-518	Shi, Li Hui	S-Trading Saipan Co., Ltd.	May 30, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-208	Cabrera, Emelito M.	Success Int'l. Corporation	June 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-207	Tataro, Silvano P.	Success Int'l. Corporation	June 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-209	Wang, Qi	Success Int'l. Corporation	June 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-506	Mendoza, Alvin M.	Taimanao, Mague	May 30, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-556	Uzzaman, Akhter	Taitano, Joseph S.	June 6, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-466	San Pedro, Rosanna D.	Teregeyo, Charlene C.	May 29, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-482	Tucay, Benjamin O.	Teregeyo, Charlene C.	May 29, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-475	Valerio, Marco E.	Valerio, Cristina B.	May 29, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-350	Fernandez-Santos, Zaida Verano	Williams, Edward W. / Susie F.	June 5, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-550	Reyes, Eriinda S.	Winchells Donut Inc.	June 6, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-471	Flores, Jeffrey P.	World Int'l. Corp.	May 29, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-488B	Ma, Xiang Hong	Yao Bang Development Corp.	May 29, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-522	Jin, Jinhuan	Yioh Corporation	May 30, 2008	2:00 p.m.

Tornadoes rake Okla., Midwest tallies damage

OKLAHOMACITY (AP)—A slow-moving storm packing tornadoes and hail battered rural Oklahoma on Saturday, destroying several buildings, tearing up trees and tossing a mobile home onto a highway. The bodies of two storm victims were found in Kansas.

A twister destroyed three barns at a hog farm near Lacey in Kingfisher County, about 75 miles northwest of Oklahoma City, said Michelann Ooten, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Emergency Management Department.

No injuries were reported at the farm or elsewhere in the state.

"It's all been out mostly in the countryside," Kingfisher County Sheriff's dispatcher Lonnie McDade said. "But that farm happened to be in the path and took a direct hit."

John Hardaway, a production manager at the farm, said the 3,900 pigs housed at the farm were kept in crates and most were not hurt.



Wally Walters clears debris near animal pens at the Farm 62 of Seaboard Foods near Hennessey, Okla., Saturday, May 24, 2008 after the farm was severely damaged by a tornado.

In Garfield County, a trailer was blown onto State Highway 74 near Covington and power lines were downed, said the county's emergency manager, Mike Honigsberg.

The pace of the storm was slow for a system producing so many tornadoes, Daryl Williams, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Norman.

"It gives us time to get the warnings out, but where the tornadoes are on the ground, it creates a lot more damage," Williams said. "We've been lucky because this has been mostly

rural areas, but it's not lucky if it's your farm."

Saturday's storm followed two days of violent weather in the Midwest. In Kansas, clean-up was under way a day after

a storm system raked the state with at least 17 tornadoes.

That storm killed at least two people, injured at least six others and heavily damaged at least 19 homes, authorities said.

The two people killed in the storm were found Saturday in a car near Pratt, the Pratt County Sheriff's Office said. The vehicle had been blown 150 yards off a highway. Gary S. Whitlow, 33, and Kimberly S. Whitlow, 29, died.

Authorities are looking into whether lightning killed a camper in Osage County.

A Kansas Highway Patrol aircraft flew along the path of the tornado to search for other possible victims.

In northern Colorado, where a tornado struck Thursday, killing one person and damaging hundreds of homes, residents of the hard-hit farming town of Windsor were allowed into their neighborhoods Saturday to assess the damage and in some cases, salvage what they could.

Mars spacecraft faces riskiest part of mission

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—After a nearly 10-month journey, a NASA spacecraft will land softly Sunday on the northern polar region of Mars, if all goes as planned.

The Phoenix Mars Lander is set to touch down in a broad, shallow valley in the Martian arctic plains believed to hold a vast supply of underground ice. Phoenix's job during the 90-day mission is to excavate the soil and ice to study whether the site could have supported microbial life.

The stakes are especially high: Fewer than half of the world's attempts to land on the Red Planet have succeeded.

"I'm getting a real case of heebie-jeebies," Joe Guinn, mission manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said on the eve of the landing.

In keeping with tradition, JPL project manager Barry Goldstein plans to hand out bags of peanuts—both salted and unsalted—to his team members on landing day. Over the years, JPL found that missions with the lucky charms have better success than those without. "I don't tempt fate," Goldstein said during a tour of mission control.

Phoenix is the first to attempt to land in Mars' high northern

latitudes. The lander will rely on its heat shield, parachute and a dozen thrusters to slow itself down from 12,000 mph to 5 mph. The risky descent takes about seven minutes.

NASA has not had a successful powered landing in more than 30 years since the twin Viking landers in 1976. The last time NASA tried was in 1999 when the Mars Polar Lander prematurely cut off its engines and crashed into the south pole. The Polar Lander loss came during a communications blackout.

Phoenix, on the other hand, will be closely watched by a flotilla of Mars orbiters hovering overhead that will relay information to Earth.

The weather looks ideal for landing, said Peter Smith, principal investigator of the University of Arizona, Tucson, which leads the \$420 million mission.

A dust cloud swept through the target site several days ago, but it did not linger and should not affect the spacecraft, Smith said.

If successful, Phoenix will join two other spacecraft on the Martian surface—the rovers Spirit and Opportunity—which landed in 2004 and have been exploring opposite sides of the equatorial plains.

Obama criticizes McCain on veterans' benefits

BAYAMON, Puerto Rico (AP)—Barack Obama told veterans Saturday that he can't understand why Republican John McCain opposes legislation that would provide college scholarships to people who have served in the U.S. military.

"Now, let me be clear: No one can dispute John McCain's love for this country or his con-

cern for veterans. But here's what I don't understand. I don't understand why John McCain would side with George Bush and oppose our plan to make college more affordable for our veterans," the Democratic presidential candidate said. "George Bush and John McCain may think our plan is too generous. I could not disagree more."

Obama's criticism renews a

clash that turned personal after the Senate approved the scholarship bill Thursday.

During the Senate debate, the Illinois senator questioned why McCain a Navy veteran and former prisoner of war would oppose the measure.

McCain responded with a sharp statement saying that he wouldn't listen to any lectures on veterans' affairs from Obama, "who did not feel it was his responsibility to serve our country in uniform."

Obama, speaking to reporters aboard his plane Saturday, countered that the idea that he can't speak on veterans' issues because he didn't serve in the military "makes no sense whatsoever."

"I didn't serve, as many people my age, because the Vietnam war was over by the time I was of draft age and we went to an all-volunteer Army. But obviously I revere our soldiers and want to make sure they are being treated with honor and respect," he added.



Obama

Robbie Knievel jumps 24 trucks in Ohio

MASON, Ohio (AP)—Robbie "Kaptain" Knievel, son of the late daredevil Evel Knievel, successfully jumped over 24 delivery trucks Saturday night at the site of one of his father's most famous stunts.

"Hopefully I'll see you after the jump," Knievel told the crowd before he climbed the start ramp.

Knievel, 46, had said he would need to be going 95 miles per hour at take off for the 200-foot jump, which began from a three-story tall ramp and was completed amid wild cheers, booming explosions and shooting flames at Kings Island amusement park near Cincinnati.

After touching down at the



tip of the landing ramp, Knievel gave the crowd a thumbs-up, raced his bike back and forth and popped a wheelie.

"He took a really hard shot at the landing," said Knievel's business partner, Jeff Lowe. "But he's thrilled. We're all thrilled. He was a lot more nervous about this jump than he let on."

Evel Knievel jumped 115 feet over 14 buses at Kings Island in 1975 in an event that was watched by more than half of the nation's television viewers.

Daredevil Robbie "Kaptain" Knievel jumps over 24 delivery trucks, his longest gap ever of 200 feet, at Kings Island amusement park, Saturday, May 24, 2008 in Mason, Ohio.

AP



ACROSS THE NATION

Weather cooperates in California wildfire fight

GILROY, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters took advantage of cooler temperatures and calmer winds Saturday as they continued to fight a persistent wildfire in the Santa Cruz Mountains that has chewed through acres of centuries-old redwoods, destroyed at least 20 homes and displaced hundreds of people. The fire was about 35 percent contained and was not expected to be under control until next week, fire officials said. It has burned nearly 6 square miles and destroyed 38 structures. Another 570 buildings were threatened. Almost

2,000 residents remained under evacuation orders—more than 450 of them mandatory.

California helicopter crash kills 3, injures 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A tour helicopter crashed on an island off the Southern California coast Saturday morning, killing three people and injuring three others, a county sheriff's deputy said. The helicopter shot flames from its exhaust pipe while it was over water, then went down on the west end of Santa Catalina Island near Two Harbors, causing a small fire that was quickly doused, said

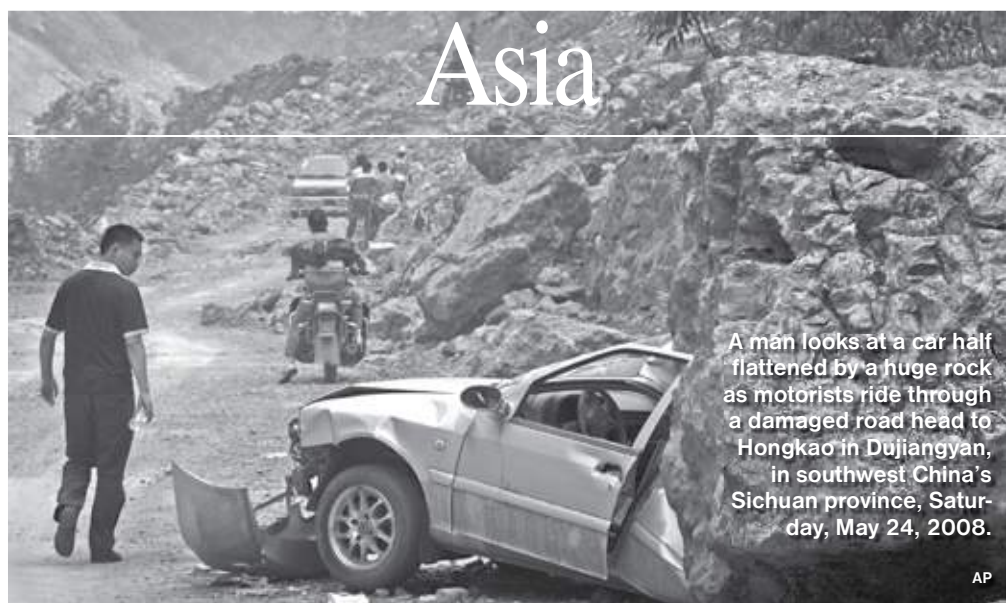
county sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore. The crash killed two men and one woman immediately, said County Supervising Fire Dispatcher Melanie Flores. Their identities were not released. Two injured women and one injured man were taken by helicopter to mainland hospitals, Whitmore said. Two of the injured were in critical condition with broken bones and other injuries.

USS Intrepid, war museum, faces new peril—money

NEW YORK (AP)—Once it was Japanese torpedoes and kamikaze suicide planes. Then, the

threat of the wrecking ball. Now, it's money - or the lack of it - that could imperil the future of the USS Intrepid as a floating military museum. If all goes according to plan, the ship will be brought back in early October and formally reopened to the public on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. That depends on finding the wherewithal to complete a job that was first estimated at \$65 to \$70 million and is now expected to cost \$110 million, said Bill White, president of the USS Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. Of that total, \$66 million is for rebuilding its city-owned pier, and the rest for the museum ship.

Asia



A man looks at a car half flattened by a huge rock as motorists ride through a damaged road head to Hongkiao in Dujiangyan, in southwest China's Sichuan province, Saturday, May 24, 2008.

AP

China warns quake death count could reach 80,000

YINGXIU, China (AP)—China warned Saturday that the death toll from a massive earthquake two weeks ago could take a major leap and pass 80,000, suggesting the government may be giving up hope of finding more survivors.

But rescuers rushed anyway to reach 24 coal miners who officials said were trapped in three mines by the disaster, though it was not known if the

miners were alive.

"We have had the miracle in the past that a miner was found alive after being trapped underground for 21 days," Wang Dexue, the deputy chief of the government's work safety department, told a news conference in Beijing. "We are carrying out rescue work on the assumption that they are still alive. We absolutely will not give up."

Wang gave no further details

of the trapped miners. China's mines are the world's deadliest, with explosions, cave-ins and floods killing nearly 3,800 people last year.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made a brief visit Saturday to one of the hardest-hit towns, Yingxiu—a helicopter ride that offered a rare bird's-eye view of the destruction wrought by the 7.9-magnitude quake on May 12.

Donors pledge aid for Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—An international conference to pledge funds for survivors of Myanmar's cyclone has convened following promises by the country's junta to open the doors to critically needed foreign assistance.

Some 50 nations along with aid agencies were meeting

Sunday in Yangon, the country's largest city, to come up with funds to ward off starvation, disease and exposure to monsoon rains for some 2.4 million cyclone victims.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who was attending the meeting, has obtained promises from the ruling junta

to allow foreign aid and aid workers to enter the most devastated areas of the country.

Earlier, foreigners were banned from the Irrawaddy river delta. The U.N. secretary-general arrived in Myanmar on Sunday to steer a 50-nation conference that will pledge funds for survivors of Cyclone Nargis.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino marines battle Muslim militants

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim guerrillas, backed by al-Qaida-linked militants, attacked a military detachment and reinforcement troops in the southern Philippines in a clash that left two rebels dead and 10 marines wounded. The fighting between the Filipino marines and Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas on Basilan island erupted after dawn Sunday amid an ongoing withdrawal of Malaysian peacekeepers, officials said. The peacekeepers have helped stop such violence from raging out of control before. Philippine marines commander Lt. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said the guerrillas were backed by Abu Sayyaf extremist rebels.

8 earthquake pandas arrive in Beijing for Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—Eight pandas reached Beijing safely Saturday after a long journey from their damaged reserve near the epicenter of the recent earthquake in China. The pandas will spend the next six months at the Beijing Zoo on a special Olympics visit that was planned long before the quake. They have been closely watched because they seemed nervous after the earthquake, sometimes eating and sleeping less. But the pandas appeared lively after they were moved into their exhibit space at the Beijing Zoo on Saturday evening, even putting their paws on the glass separating them from the media and the public. The eight, 2-year-old pandas were flown Saturday afternoon by special plane to Beijing from Chengdu, the capital of hard-hit central Sichuan province.

Suicides linked to work-related stress up in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The number of people who committed suicide or tried to in Japan because of work-related stress has doubled in the last five years, a government report said, illustrating the growing anxiety many here feel from increased workloads and competition. The Health Ministry report said 81 people committed suicide or tried to commit suicide because of stress at work in fiscal year 2007—up from 66 in 2006 and 40 in 2003. It did not specifically say how many of the 81 committed suicide. The report also found that a record high 268 people—including the 81—developed work-related mental conditions such as depression. The report was published Saturday in Japanese newspapers. Japan has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. About 32,160 people killed themselves in 2006—the latest government statistics available for a full year.

Nepal's PM asks former rebels to form government

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's prime minister asked the country's former communist rebels on Saturday to form a new coalition government after they won the largest number of seats for a constitution-drafting assembly. Peace Minister Ram Chandra Poudel said the former rebels, known as Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists), were asked by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala at a meeting Saturday to "go ahead and make the new government." "The prime minister asked the Maoists to form the new government and take necessary initiatives to bring other parties in the coalition government," Poudel said.

World

'Al-Qaida close to defeat in Iraq'

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. ambassador to Iraq said Saturday that al-Qaida's network in the country has never been closer to defeat, and he praised Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki for his moves to rein in Shiite and Sunni militant groups.

Ryan Crocker's comments came as Iraqi forces have been conducting crackdowns on al-Qaida militants in the northern city of Mosul and on Shiite militiamen in the southern city of Basra. Thousands of Iraqi forces also moved into the Shiite militia stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad last week imposing control

for the first time in years.

But truces with the powerful Mahdi Army militia that have calmed violence in Basra and paved the way for the Sadr City deployment have been strained in the past two days.

Supporters of anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who heads the Mahdi Army, accused al-Maliki on Saturday of seeking to eliminate their movement and warned that "dark clouds" hang over the truce.

Al-Qaida fighters or other Sunni insurgents struck back in Mosul on Saturday. A roadside bomb in the city's Sumer neighborhood hit

an Iraqi army patrol, destroying a vehicle and killing four soldiers, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Near Baqouba—where a U.S. offensive last year targeted al-Qaida in Iraq—gunmen assassinated a member of the local Awakening Council, a U.S.-backed group of Sunni tribesmen who are fighting al-Qaida. The attack occurred in the village of Had, north of Baghdad, police said.

U.S. Ambassador Crocker spoke as he visited reconstruction projects in the southern city of Najaf.

Colombia: FARC's leader is dead



AP

Manuel Marulanda, the founder and top leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, gestures as he arrives in Los Pozos, southern Colombia, in this Feb. 9, 2001 file photo.

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—The Colombian Defense Ministry said Saturday it believes the legendary leader of Latin America's largest guerrilla army is dead.

Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda, commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, died on March 26, the ministry said in a statement, citing "different military intelligence means."

"We know that inside the FARC, the version is that he died of natural causes, specifically from a heart attack," the ministry said. "Whether the death of Marulanda came in a bombardment or from natural causes, this would be the most serious blow this terrorist group has suffered."

Marulanda, whose real name is Pedro Antonio Marin, was believed to be about 80, and had led the peasant-based FARC since its founding in 1964.

Parents post baby on eBay for 1 euro

BERLIN (AP)—Authorities in southern Germany said Saturday they have taken custody of a 7-month-old boy after his parents posted an ad on eBay offering to sell him for one euro, the equivalent of \$1.57.

Peter Hieber, a spokesman for police in the Bavarian town of

Krumbach, said the baby was placed in the care of youth services in the southwestern Allgäu region, although the child's 23-year-old mother insisted the ad was only a joke.

Authorities have launched an investigation into possible child trafficking against the baby's

mother and 24-year-old father, neither of whom was identified.

"Offering my nearly new baby for sale, as it has gotten too loud. It is a male baby, nearly 28 inches (70 cm) long and can be used either in a baby carrier or a stroller," police quoted the ad as reading.



WORLD BRIEFS

Tsvangirai returns to Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Opposition leader and presidential candidate Morgan Tsvangirai returned to his homeland Saturday, stopping first to visit hospitalized supporters who had been targeted in an onslaught of state-sponsored violence. He then called on increasingly autocratic President Robert Mugabe to "set his people free from poverty, hunger and fear" by stepping down. Tsvangirai, who had left Zimbabwe six weeks earlier, tried to return a week ago but called that off after his party said he was the target of a military assassination plot. The former union leader has survived at least three assassination attempts.

North Sea oil platform evacuated after oil leak

OSLO, Norway (AP)—About 200 people were evacuated from an oil platform in the North Sea on Saturday as workers tried to contain an oil leak that occurred during maintenance work, of-

ficials said. "Oil is leaking from one of the shafts of the Statfjord A platform in the North Sea," operator StatoilHydro ASA said. "The situation is serious and confused." Two people were exposed to gas during the incident, but none was seriously injured, said company spokesman Ola Morten Aanstad. Oil was being discharged into the sea from the platform for safety reasons and repair vessels were heading to the area to contain the spill, the company said.

Woman jailed for using kids to smuggle drugs

LONDON (AP)—A Mexican housewife was sentenced to more than nine years in jail after she pleaded guilty to using two children to smuggle cocaine into Britain, the customs agency said Friday. Elisa Vazquez Sanchez was accompanied by a 13-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl when she was stopped at London's Heathrow Airport on her way from Mexico on March 11, the agency said in a statement.

Officials at the airport found about 20 pounds of cocaine taped to the children's bodies. The agency said Judge Jonathan Lowen at London's Isleworth Crown Court sentenced Sanchez, 40, to 9 1/2 years of prison Thursday. Sanchez's relationship to the children, who are Mexican residents, was not disclosed. The kids are now in the care of social services.

Belgian police detain nearly 200 after riots

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—Police have detained nearly 200 youths after rioting in Brussels sparked by a simmering dispute between rival groups after a soccer match. Police spokesman Gerald Noon says 26 people, including 14 police officers, were injured in the clashes late Friday. Officers believe troublemakers prearranged the confrontation over the Internet. Noon says the violence stemmed from a confrontation last weekend between North African youths and fans of Anderlecht soccer club after it won the Belgian Cup Final.

Health & Fitness

Best diet: Dump 'emotional eating' from life

By JANET CROMLEY
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

If he's good enough to be Oprah's personal trainer and food muse, surely he's got some tips for the rest of us.

In his book "The Best Life Diet," exercise physiologist and fitness author Bob Greene expands on his signature concept: Weight loss is a lifetime commitment that starts within.

Question: Are you seeing changes in the way people approach food and exercise?

Answer: We are seeing an increase in the purchasing of nutrition-rich foods and the corresponding offering of better food choices in the grocery stores such as whole grains, fresh fruits and veggies, and we're seeing more lower sodium, lower sugar and lower "bad fat" products. As for the exercise side of the equation, I think we have done

all we can as a society to take activity out of our day-to-day life. From taking physical education out of the schools to relying on the modern conveniences of the computer and e-mail to not designing sidewalks in new neighborhoods.

Q: You focus on increasing activity, learning to gauge hunger and getting to the root of emotional eating. How did you arrive at this idea of "emotional eating"?

A: Having worked with clients for over 25 years, it became apparent—luckily, a while ago—that many people were obsessed with saving 40 or 50 calories by, say, consuming a diet drink, then proceeding to consume hundreds or even thousands of excess calories comforting themselves from life's challenges.

Q: What one thing is the most

important rule of dieting?

A: The most profound eating rule is to eliminate most of your emotional eating, and the best place to start is to eliminate eating that occurs within two hours of bedtime.

Q: You mention in your new book that people who tend to succeed at long-term weight loss are generally those who've done some serious soul-searching. That sounds simple enough, but how do you get from A to B?

A: First, you need to identify what areas of your life have been challenging and understand that eating to comfort yourself is simply using food as a drug -- a drug that prevents you from resolving what is "off" in your life.

You then replace this addiction with some behaviors that will get you closer to the life you really want. For example, instead of eating, take a class,

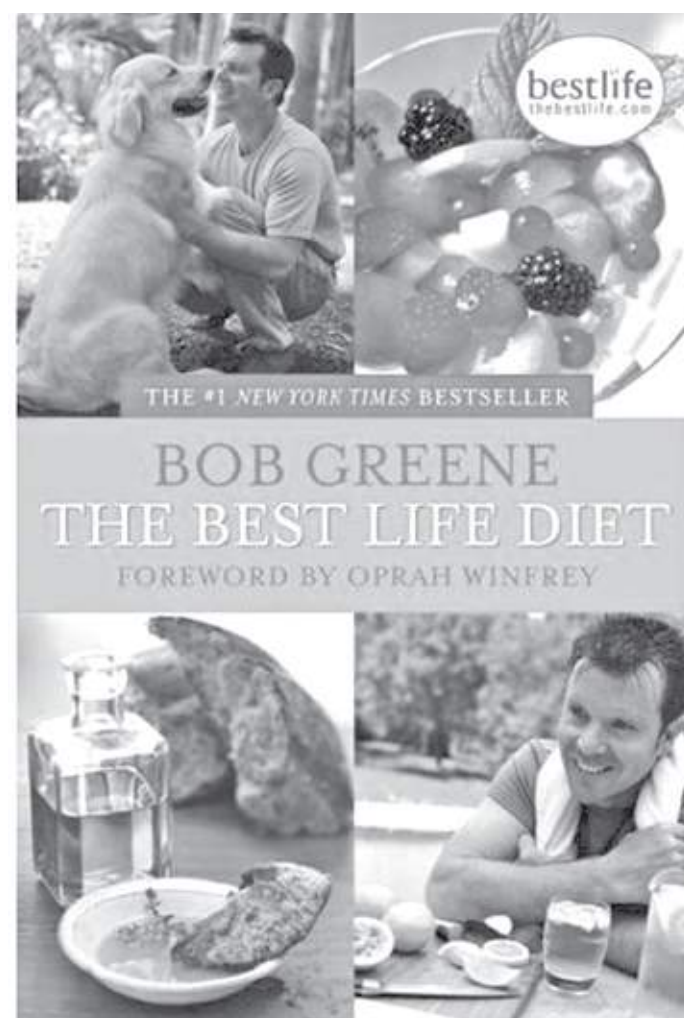
take a walk, improve a relationship (or a job) or get out of one that is damaging. Look deeper into improving your finances, expose yourself to opportunities that help you meet other people. Changing how you live your life is the hard work -- harder than getting on a treadmill or turning down foods that get you into trouble.

Q: If you were forced to recommend just one single strength exercise, what would that be?

A: To recommend one, you really need to know if the person has any physical limitations. But with that said, I would start with abdominal crunches, as it is the area most deficient in an inactive population.

Change your lifestyle so you don't eat to comfort yourself, Bob Greene advises in "The Best Life Diet."

LOS ANGELES TIMES



HEALTH TIPS

Health insurance for kids

By SUSAN MORSE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

With a looming recession and a lot of job insecurity these days, it's smart to know what resources are available to help you and your family. Find out if your children may qualify for free or low-cost health insurance with a new, searchable tool from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The insurance is available to working families

and helps cover doctor visits, prescription medicines, hospitalizations and more. Even children who are not covered now by health insurance may be eligible. Find more information at: www.insurekidsnow.gov or by calling 1-877-KIDS-NOW.

Think sun protection is necessary only for your skin? Think again. The American Optometric Association (AOA) says prolonged exposure over time

to the sun's ultraviolet rays has been linked to cataracts and degeneration of the cornea, among other problems. Children and teens are particularly at risk because the lenses of their eyes are more transparent than adult lenses.

The association advises wearing sunglasses even on cloudy days. Choose those that block out UV-A and UV-B radiation and screen out 75 to 90 percent of visible light. Gray-colored lenses provide the most natural color vision, according to the AOA.

IUDs—intrauterine devices—are not only effective at contraception but now there's evidence they may also protect against endometrial cancer, ac-

cording to a growing body of research. Reporting at the American College of Obstetricians meeting in New Orleans, David Grimes, of Family Health International, said that there's a 40 percent reduction in endometrial cancer among women who use IUDs. That's equal to the protection offered by birth control pills—without the added risk of increased stroke. Yet only 2 percent of American women use IUDs, Grimes told the meeting. Worldwide, IUDs are the most popular form of reversible birth control, he said, noting that the IUD "is underutilized as a contraceptive in the United States" and may have health benefits far beyond preventing pregnancy.

CDC gets behind shingles shot

Almost all Americans 60 and older should be vaccinated against shingles, a painful, often debilitating condition that affects about 1 million people a year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended last week. The recommendation includes people who already have had shingles.

The CDC's advice comes almost two years after a provisional recommendation by the agency prompted a lengthy peer review process. It may mean that more physicians will now give the vaccine and more private insurers will cover its cost, said CDC spokesman Curtis Allen. The vaccine is already covered by Medicare Part D, according to the CDC.

Shingles, which usually surfaces as a rash on one side of the face or body, is caused by varicella zoster, the same virus responsible for chickenpox.

After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus stays in the body and can reappear as shingles later in life, causing severe pain that may last for weeks, months or even years. Starting an antiviral drug within 72 hours of onset can reduce the pain and length of the outbreak.

The number of Americans affected by shingles is increasing as the population ages, Allen said. Shingles occurs most frequently in people 50 and older. Rare complications such as pneumonia, hearing problems and blindness tend to occur after 60.

The CDC recommends a single dose of the vaccine Zostavax, which Allen said is effective for at least five to six years. "It doesn't appear that we will have to recommend a booster," he said, "but we will be monitoring this, and down the road we might."

More information is available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines. (The Washington Post)

FROM START TO FITNESS

Getting a handle on kettlebells



Kettlebells

By ANDREA RENEE WYATT, M.S.S., C.S.C.S.
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I've been reading about training using something called a kettlebell. What exactly are kettlebells, and how does a workout with kettlebells compare to a regular strength-training workout?

A: Kettlebell training is rapidly

finding followers. Kettlebells, which originated in Russia, are cannonball-shaped weights with a rounded handle attached. They vary in size and weight, and are said to bridge the gap between weight training and cardiovascular conditioning, building both a functionally strong and lean body.

According to personal trainer Jerry Babbage in Orlando, Fla., kettlebell training allows a freedom of move-

ment that you might not receive while doing machine workouts, which move in just a single plane. Kettlebells can do just what a dumbbell can, plus much more.

The other benefits noted while using kettlebells include developing excellent core strength and explosive strength, in addition to improving all-around fitness through muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, car-

dio-respiratory efficiency and body composition.

Kettlebell workouts are becoming more available at fitness facilities, and you can purchase kettlebells at sporting-goods stores and even some all-purpose stores such as Target. DVDs also are available to provide instruction in the proper use of kettlebells, which is very important.

Kettlebell training can be enjoyable and a challenging, with countless exercises available. Its compactness and ease of storage makes this an exercise option even for the home. As with any type of exercise program, be sure to speak with your physician and a fitness professional for any concerns or questions before you begin.

Trying new and different type of exercise programs can be fun, and kettlebell training is definitely worth taking a swing.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. Andrea Renee Wyatt, M.S.S., C.S.C.S., is a personal trainer with an extensive background in strength and conditioning as well as therapeutic recreation. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Life & Style

Cannes prepares for prizes in festival finale

CANNES, France (AP) -- Established Hollywood stars and filmmakers such as Clint Eastwood and Angelina Jolie were competing against movies from acclaimed international directors for the top honors at the Cannes Film Festival on Sunday.

Among critical favorites at the 12-day festival, which presented some solid entries though no obvious standouts, was Eastwood's "Changeling," starring Jolie in the true-life story of a Los Angeles woman battling corrupt police to find her missing son after authorities return the wrong boy in his place.

Other warmly received tales among the 22 in the festival's main competition included:

■ Laurent Cantet's "The Class," a classroom drama shot in a French school using real students and teachers;

■ Walter Salles and Daniela Thomas' "Linha de Passe," a tale of four brothers in a crime-ridden Brazilian slum;

■ Ari Folman's "Waltz With Bashir," an animated documentary about war in Lebanon in the early 1980s;

■ Matteo Garrone's "Gomorra," a study of the criminal underworld in Naples;

■ Paolo Sorrentino's "Il Divo," a lively portrait of former Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti and accusations against

him of mafia ties;

■ And Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "Three Monkeys," a subtle drama about a family's hard choices coming home to roost.

The competition also featured "Lorna's Silence," a drama about an immigrant woman who enters a sham marriage to gain Belgian citizenship, from Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, two-time winners of the Palme d'Or, the top Cannes award.

Another past Cannes winner, Steven Soderbergh, was in the running with "Che," his two-part, four-hour epic about Latin American revolutionary Che Guevara, starring Benicio Del Toro. Soderbergh, who won the Palme d'Or for 1989's "sex, lies and videotape," received mixed reviews for "Che" from Cannes critics.

While Cannes presented few outright bombs this time, critics found the lineup a bit tepid. Last year's competition included such films as Joel and Ethan Coen's "No Country for Old Men," which went on to win the best-picture Academy Award, and Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud's animated coming-of-age tale "Persepolis," which was nominated for the animation Oscar.

Last year's top prize went to Cristian Mungiu's abortion drama "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days."



AP
American actress Angelina Jolie and American director Clint Eastwood arrive for the premiere of the film "Changeling" at the 61st international Cannes film festival, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

Satrapi is among those choosing this year's winners on the nine-member Cannes jury, which is led by Sean Penn and includes actress Natalie Portman and director Alfonso Cuaron.

Museum to get Clooney's 'Leatherheads' uniform

AUGUSTA, Ky. (AP)—A Kentucky museum dedicated to George Clooney's late aunt just wanted the actor's helmet from the movie "Leatherheads."

Turns out, the museum for singer and actress Rosemary Clooney will get the leather headgear and the rest of the football uniform.

"This will be a nice addition," curator Steve Henry said. "In the future we are hoping to accumulate at least one costume from each of his new movies."

Clooney's uniform will be placed among his aunt's memorabilia. Henry said the new display at the Rosemary Clooney



AP
In this undated file image released by Universal Pictures George Clooney, center, leads the huddle in a scene from "Leatherheads."

House Museum is scheduled to be unveiled June 7.

"We were at the premiere of 'Leatherheads' in March and

were told the entire football costume, from the cleats and socks to the helmet we had originally asked for, was ours to have for the museum," Henry told The Ledger Independent of Maysville.

George Clooney is a Kentucky native. He stars alongside Renee Zellweger in "Leatherheads," a romantic comedy set in the world of 1920s professional football.

Henry, a former Kentucky lieutenant governor, and his wife, former Miss America Heather French Henry, bought and converted Rosemary Clooney's house into a museum after she died.

Ghosts of Janet, Sid haunt Chelsea Hotel film

CANNES, France (AP) -- Most documentaries stick with interviews of living people. But since this one's about New York's Chelsea Hotel and its rock 'n' roll aura, it seems natural that the ghosts of Janis Joplin and Sid Vicious turn up.

For "Chelsea on the Rocks," which premiered Friday at the Cannes Film Festival, director Abel Ferrara ("Bad Lieutenant") strung together archival footage and interviews of the artists, writers and actors who have lived there, in typical doc-

umentary fashion. He also hired actors to play Joplin and Vicious for trippy flashbacks.

Both rockers battled drugs and demons during their stays there. Leonard Cohen wrote a song about a sexual encounter with Joplin on an unmade bed there. And the Chelsea is where Vicious' girlfriend, Nancy Spungen, died of a stab wound.

The Chelsea has been a mecca for bohemia for decades, attracting brilliant—and often desperate and doomed—artists. Dylan Thomas, Bob

Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Jimi Hendrix, Andy Warhol, Arthur Miller and Arthur C. Clarke are just a few of the greats who spent time there.

Actor Dennis Hopper, who stayed there early in his career, told reporters, "We were all living on the edge, the edge of what, I'm not sure, but we were living on the edge of it."

"A number of us fell in the hole, and some of us stood on the rim, and some of us got out of there," he said. "But it was a really special, exciting time, and

I'll always cherish it."

Jamie Burke, who plays Vicious in the movie, calls the hotel "a vortex."

"You get this crazy ... artistic tornado of death and destruction and love and broken dreams," he said.

Vicious was charged with second-degree murder in Spungen's death, but died of a heroin overdose in 1979 at age 21 before standing trial. In Ferrara's on-screen vision, the Sex Pistols bassist was not responsible for her death.

Eastwood's goes for gold at Cannes fest

CANNES, France (AP)—With all of his Academy Awards and other Hollywood honors, Clint Eastwood is not necessarily in the market for more prizes. He'll never shy away from a contest, though, including the one at the world's most prestigious film showcase.

Eastwood's missing-child drama "Changeling" was among 22 movies in the running for the top honor, the Palme d'Or, on Sunday at the 61st Cannes Film Festival.

Some established filmmakers choose to screen their movies out of competition at Cannes. Not Eastwood.

"It seems like if you're going to come to a film festival that has a competition, you might as well be in the competition," Eastwood said. "To play it out of competition is kind of playing it safe. It's like saying, 'OK, we're above that.' I'm not above that."

Among the films "Changeling" is up against are Steven Soderbergh's "Che," his two-part, four-hour-plus epic about Latin American revolutionary Che Guevara, a saga that received mixed reviews; "Lorna's Silence," a drama about an immigrant woman who enters a sham marriage to gain Belgian citizenship, from two-time Palme d'Or winners Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne; and Walter Salles and Daniela Thomas' "Linha de Passe," a tale of four brothers in a crime-ridden Brazilian slum.

Cannes critics say that while an obvious standout has not emerged, the competition features some solid entries, including Ari Folman's "Waltz With Bashir," an animated documentary about war in Lebanon in the early 1980s; Matteo Garrone's "Gomorra," a study of the criminal underworld in Naples; Paolo Sorrentino's "Il Divo," a lively portrait of former Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti and accusations against him of mafia ties; and Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "Three Monkeys," a subtle drama about a family's hard choices coming home to roost.

Top honors at Cannes have served as a launch point for such high-profile films as Soderbergh's "sex, lies and videotape," Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction," Mike Leigh's "Secrets and Lies," Roman Polanski's "The Pianist" and Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11."

Other Palme d'Or recipients have gone largely unnoticed by general audiences, including the last three, the Dardenne's "The Child," Ken Loach's "The Wind That Shakes the Barley" and last year's winner, Cristian Mungiu's "4 Months,

3 Weeks and 2 Days."

Having Eastwood in competition puts Sean Penn, head of the Cannes jury, in the odd position of judging the work of a man who shepherded him to an Oscar. Penn won the best-actor prize for Eastwood's "Mystic River."

As Cannes opened May 14, Penn said it was "an emotional impossibility, I believe, for any of us to give in to something as petty as to favor a film because a friend of ours is in it. I also want to make it clear that this person will not be biased against. And that if Clint Eastwood's done a film that deserves awarding, we're going to ... award it."

"Mystic River" and three previous Eastwood films - "Pale Rider," "Bird" and "White Hunter, Black Heart" - all played in competition at Cannes. While "Bird" won the lead-actor prize and a technical award at Cannes, Eastwood has never received the festival's top award.

Eastwood's Hollywood honors include best-picture and director wins at the Oscars for "Unforgiven" and "Million Dollar Baby."

"Changeling" earned high marks from critics, who raved about Angelina Jolie's performance.

While such well-known figures as Penn, Helen Mirren and Holly Hunter have won best-acting honors at Cannes, the festival often singles out up-and-coming performers, such as 2007 best-actress winner Do-Yeon Jeon for the South Korean film "Secret Sunshine."

Jolie, a supporting-actress Oscar winner for "Girl, Interrupted," said she's happy to see lesser-known performers take Cannes honors.

"If that happens and it goes to somebody that it boosts their career, that's great," Jolie said. "Winning is not the important thing. It's fun to be here with something we are actually very proud of."

Among those joining Penn on the nine-member jury were actress Natalie Portman, director Alfonso Cuaron and comic book artist and filmmaker Marjane Satrapi.

Mexican filmmaker Cuaron joked: "In my case I'm rooting for the Mexican movie." Mexico does not have a film in competition this year.

Portman said a lot of pressure comes with serving on a Cannes jury.

"To be in the position of a judge is very humbling, because all the filmmakers are so incredible, and who am I to say something?" Portman said. "But I will."

Mother of three wants to flee her empty nest

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 54-year-old divorced woman who raised three kids on my own for 15 years. I would now like to make a major change in my life and move to a small town in a Southern state. My kids are grown except for my youngest, who will graduate from high school this summer and probably attend college.



Dear Abby

My parents, who don't even live in this town, are opposed to the idea. They say I am "abandoning my children," and my siblings are asking how I can move so far away from my elderly parents, which makes me feel guilty.

Am I wrong for wanting a new life of my own? My loved ones can always come to visit me. Do I owe it to my parents to stay here?

I can no longer afford to live where I am here in San Diego, but if I move to a less expensive community, I suppose I could afford a small home.

RESTLESS

DEAR RESTLESS: Having raised your children to the point that they are independent, you are entitled to live wherever you wish. However, before making any hard-and-fast decisions, please answer some honest questions:

What will you do if your parents become too ill or frail to travel? Once your children marry and your grandchildren start arriving, how involved do you want to be in their lives?

If you will have enough money to travel for visits when you wish, then go with a clear conscience. If not, consider moving to a smaller, less expensive community not so far away from the family.

P.S. A final question: If something should happen to you, would you want your family to be closer?

...

DEAR ABBY: I have had this friend, "Dina," for about five years. It took me a while to notice, but now I realize she calls me only when she needs something -- a shoulder to cry on, a favor or, more recently, someone to brag to about her "good fortune."

Dina's "fiance" (I'll call him "Ethan") has finally divorced his wife to be with her. He has physically and emotionally abused Dina in the past, and continues to use drugs. I have loaned her money and helped her out in more ways than I can count.

Ethan recently got a big settlement, so Dina had \$10,000 worth of plastic surgery done and took a trip to the Caribbean. But she has never once offered to repay me what she owes. She has also never been to my new house, not even for the housewarming. She says I live "too far," although it's only 20 minutes from her place.

Dina's wedding is scheduled soon. I don't want to attend because I think Ethan is an abuser -- and besides, it's "too far." She keeps calling, and I just let the machine pick up. I don't want to invest any more in this friendship, but I don't know what to do. Advice, please.

MS. L. IN SEATTLE

DEAR MS. L: Tell Dina that it's time to repay the money you loaned her. After that, I predict your problem will be solved.

■■■

DEAR READERS: Along with the millions of Americans who are celebrating this Memorial Day, I would like to add my prayer of thanks to the men and women of our armed services who laid down their lives in service to our country. May they rest in peace.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

'Indiana Jones' earns \$56M in 2 days

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He may be older, but Indiana Jones is still finding box office treasure. Paramount's "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," the fourth film in the action-adventure series starring Harrison Ford, earned \$56 million in its first two days, Media By Numbers president Paul Dergarabedian said.

After earning \$25 million in its Thursday debut, the Steven Spielberg-directed movie brought in another \$31 million Friday.

"These are very solid numbers, no question about it. The fact that earnings went up on the second day is a good sign," Dergarabedian said. "Whether it's on pace to beat "Pirates" numbers from last Memorial Day remains to be seen."

Last year, "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" set the record for a Memorial Day weekend opening, earning \$153 million including Thursday night preview grosses.

"Indiana Jones" will need a strong weekend finish to top the year's biggest hit so far, "Iron Man," which pulled in \$98.6 million domestically in its first weekend.

The film opened early Thursday in 4,260 theaters, according to Media By Numbers.



AP
In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Harrison Ford is shown in a scene from the film, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," the first film in 19 years about the

archaeologist-adventurer, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival this month to tepid reviews.

Actor in new 'Potter' film is killed

LONDON (AP)—A British teenage actor playing a minor role in the upcoming "Harry Potter" film was stabbed to death during a brawl in London on Saturday, police said.

Rob Knox, 18, was stabbed after he got caught up in a fight outside a bar in southwest London early Saturday, London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

Knox plays Ravenclaw student Marcus Belby in the upcoming film "Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince," the sixth installment of the popular series set for release in November.

Warner Bros., the studio that is producing the film, said it was



shocked by the news.

Knox was one of five young men taken to various hospitals after the brawl, police said. Among them was a 21-year-old who has since been arrested on suspicion of murder.

The fight did not appear to be gang-related, police added, but it puts the number of violent teenage deaths in London at 14 so far this year.

AP
Undated image released Saturday May 24, 2008, by Britain's Metropolitan Police, showing murdered actor who starred in a Harry Potter movie, teenager Robert Knox, right, with his mother Sally and 17-year old brother Jamie.

Lange bashes Iraq war in speech

BRONXVILLE, N.Y. (AP)—Oscar-winner Jessica Lange bashed the Bush administration and denounced the war in Iraq during a commencement address at Sarah Lawrence College.

The star of "Tootsie" and "Blue Sky" was applauded by students Friday at the small liberal arts college after comparing the conflict with the Vietnam War. She said the graduates have "a heavy burden" to chart a new path for the country.

"We are living in an America that, in the last seven and a half years, has waged an unnecessary war, established prison camps, condoned torture, employed corporate armies, eliminated the right of habeas corpus, practiced extraordinary rendition, and believe me, this is only a partial list," Lange said.

Lange asked the graduates, including her 22-year-old daughter Hannah Shepard, to commit themselves to the "pursuit of peace."



Lange

Zhang Ziyi outraged by quake ignorance

HONG KONG (AP)—"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" star Zhang Ziyi says she's outraged by what she says is ignorance about the recent earthquake in China.

Zhang said in several Chinese-language blog entries over the past week that she has been busy raising money for relief efforts after the deadly quake struck in China's central Sichuan province, which has killed more than 60,000.

But she said she was surprised to find one group she solicited on the sidelines of the Cannes Film



AP
Chinese actress Ziyi Zhang is seen at FIT's First Couture Council Award Luncheon in New York, on Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

Festival in France knew little about the disaster.

"I was as angry as a madwoman. I said, 'Are you idiots? You are well-dressed people who look like you identify with society, but you don't know what's going on on planet Earth.' It's incredible!" Zhang said.

Zhang said she has made a pamphlet about the quake to show foreigners. She said she donated \$144,000 and received a pledge of \$100,000 from Wendi Deng, the Chinese-born wife of media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

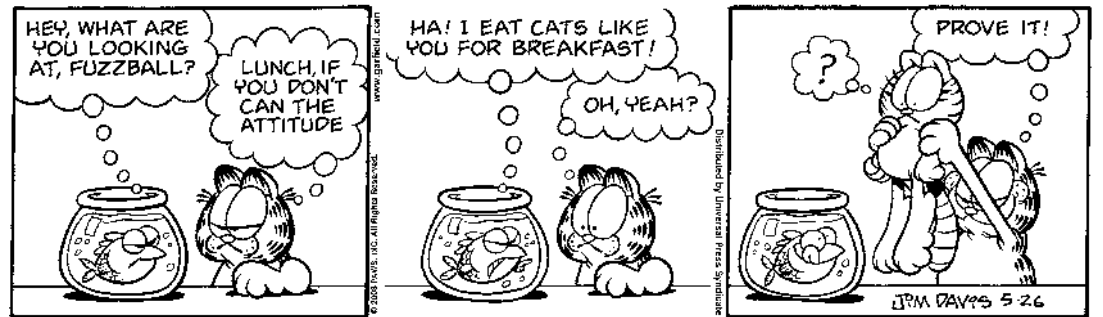
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

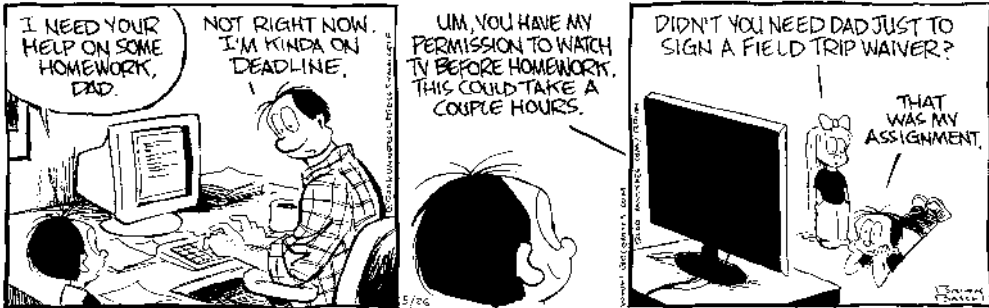


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

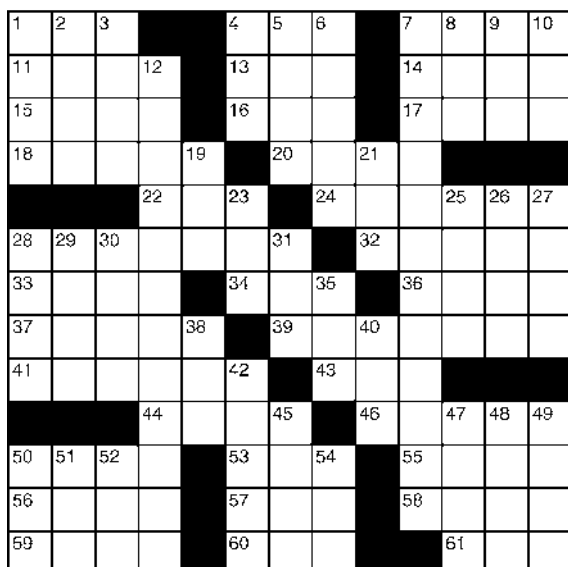
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spinning meas. 41 More scary 21 Meadow 23 — Mahal
- 4 Museum fill 43 Taste the tea 25 Actress Penelope
- 7 Taverns 44 Hammer's target 26 Staffer
- 11 Winged 46 Card-suit symbol 27 Witted
- 13 Sticky stuff 50 Rough journey 28 Sit for a snapshot
- 14 Iridescent gem 53 Two (Sp.) 29 Wheel-base
- 15 Sudanese Republic, 55 Not good today at all 30 Scoff
- 16 Dine on 56 Throw hard 31 Turf
- 17 Refute a claim 57 Conceit 35 No opponent
- 18 Slim, graceful woman 58 Disen-cumbers 38 Vast expanse
- 20 Sandwich shop 59 Shrek, e.g. 40 Serbian city
- 22 Dog's doctor 60 Reed or Harrison 42 Passenger
- 24 Certain destinations 61 Female deer 45 Box seats?
- 28 Nightwear 47 Very eager
- 32 High nest 48 Carthaginian queen
- 33 The yoke's on them 49 Otherwise
- 34 Bliss 50 Nevertheless, for short
- 36 Discourteous 51 Carpet
- 37 Large quantities 52 Blunder
- 39 Resident 54 Red —

Solution time: 24 mins.



Saturday's answer 5-26



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lenny Kravitz, 44; Sally Ride, 57; Philip Michael Thomas, 59; Hank Williams Jr., 59

Happy Birthday: By directing your time and effort intuitively, you will reach your goals. Learning not to splurge on yourself, your loved ones or luxury items you don't need will be your lesson. If you learn it well, you will end up in a nice financial position. Your numbers are 5, 9, 15, 28, 35, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't speak too freely about your ideas, secrets or intentions. Someone listening may manipulate your plan. A trusted friend or relative who can help you see the pros and cons of what you want to do will give you insight. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There will be opportunities that you can take advantage of but you can't fret about what everyone else is doing. There is money to be made if you are prepared to make some serious changes. A power play will be required. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Work at high speed to fulfill all the demands being put on you. When complete, you will be the hero, the one who impresses everyone with your intelligence, versatility and insight into what works. Love is in the stars. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's better to be a participant and have a say than to avoid getting involved and being subject to the results made by others. You have lots to contribute and stand to make financial gains through advancement, investments or a bonus. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Partnerships working within an organization or putting things in order will all be favored. You will be able to persuade others to do things your way and to get involved and do most of the work for you. Delegation will be your forte. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't make assumptions when it comes to dealing with peers—you aren't likely to get it right and that will lead to disaster. Ask questions and keep an open mind. Listening, not criticism, will be required. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Discuss your plans with as many people as possible. A love connection can be made if you are single or a very close and long lasting friendship if you aren't. Just be yourself. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concentrate on the task at hand and, if that entails working long hours, it will be worth it. Leave emotional matters until you've had more time to think about the situation and what you want to do about it. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Talks will be necessary if you want to settle an important matter with someone you are in a relationship with. They will result in change that you may not initially like but, in the end, you will benefit and enjoy your personal life much more. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Talks will be to your advantage in that you will have a greater understanding of

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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from where everyone else in your life is coming. Once you realize the importance of others, you will flourish, allowing you to go full steam ahead. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Address issues that have been on your mind but don't get angry at the response you get. You will get a better understanding of what's going on and how you can make things better. Stick to the rules. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Fixate on what you can do for others and you will bypass a lot of aggravation from friends, relatives and neighbors. A chance to work in an organization that will introduce you to key people in your field will lead to an opportunity, if you make it your business to stay in touch. ***

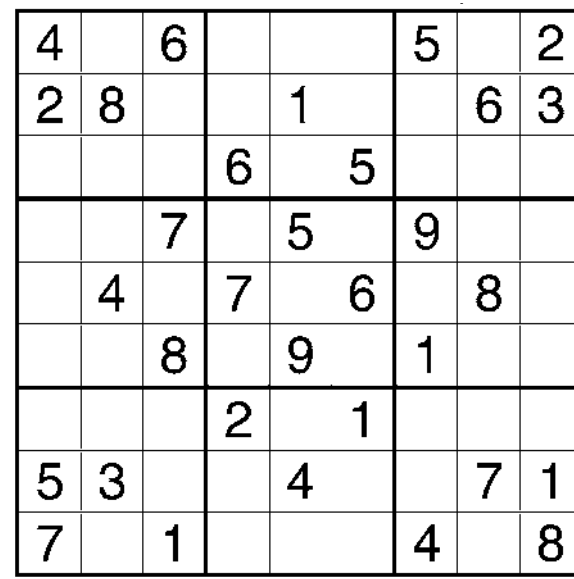
Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, intuitive and inventive. You are active, aggressive and have storytelling down to an art.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

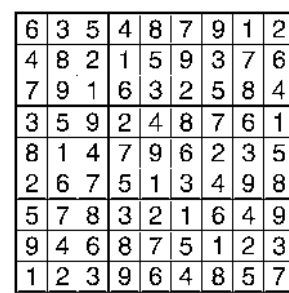


Difficulty Level ★

5/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

5/7

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RESERVE IT!

Solution: 7 letters

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com

5/26

Accommodations, Ahead, Arrange, Aside, Bank, Before, Call, Date, Document, Duration, Fill, Flight, Hotel, Keep, Later, Lift, Line, Location, Meal, Meeting, Next, Pass, Period, Phone, Place, Plan, Play, Prepared, Promise, Queue, Restaurant, Safe, Save, Schedule, Seats, Slot, Stay, Store, Table, Ticket, Turns, Valid, Vehicle, Verbal, View, Visits, Word, Written

Last Saturday's Answer: Addresses

To code THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Ladera International School of Saipan

is seeking for team player and motivated teachers

Position : **Classroom Teacher**

Minimum Requirements: Degree from accredited university with a BA in an education-related major.

Salary : Varies based upon education and experience

Please submit your resume with recent picture to lissilc@yahoo.com.

LISS will be holding its 2nd Summer School Program for SY2007-2008 open to all Elementary students.

First Session, June 9 to July 4, 2008

Second Session, July 7 to August 1, 2008

Time: 7:30am to 2:20pm (Mondays thru Fridays)

Other Summer Programs includes school wide:
Educational Weekend Activities • Leadership Program
ESL Program • Science Camp

Said program will focus on academic subjects.
Any interested participants will get to enjoy this program at a very reasonable price.

For more information, please contact Ms. Hazel at 288 2006.

Take advantage of special tuition rates and scholarship program.



is now accepting applications for

SALES ASSOCIATE
(Auto sales experience a plus but not necessary)



Unlimited earning potential based upon attitude and desire to be part of a progressive forward thinking family-owned business. Competitive compensation with experience including aggressive bonuses, 401K, vacation & holiday pay, medical & dental plan.

Apply at the **Triple J Corporate Offices**
3rd Floor, TSL Building
(beside Liberty Plaza), Beach Road, Garapan
Monday through Friday,
from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm.
For more information, pls. call: **234-1795**

Current Driver's License and court or police clearance required upon submitting application.
Pre-employment drug test and police clearance required upon selection.

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.

Make it a **daily** habit!

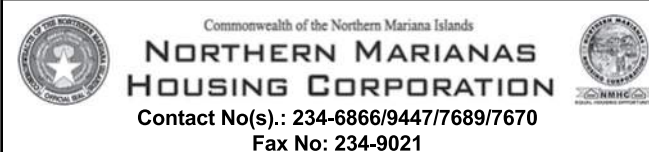


FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

WHATZIT Solution:
Pieces of eight

DON'T DO DRUGS!



PUBLIC NOTICE

(May 19, 2008)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation wants to inform the general public that it has 16 vacant housing units available at its Liyo Housing Subdivision in Rota that are ready for immediate occupancy to income-eligible families.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply at any of the NMHC's offices located on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. Eligible applicants from Saipan and Tinian would be required to relocate to Rota at their own expense.

Eligibility to participate in the Section 8 Program is determined by family size and income, in accordance with Federal statutes, regulations, and NMHC's policies as provided under its administrative plan.

For more information, please contact any of the following individuals at the numbers listed above and below:

- 1) Kimo Rosario/Melinda Babauta (Saipan Office);
- 2) Frances Diaz (Tinian Field Office); or,
- 3) Nanette Atalig (Rota Field Office).

ROTA FIELD OFFICE
Contact No.: 532-9410
Fax No: 532-9441

TINIAN FIELD OFFICE
Contact No.: 433-9213
Fax No: 433-3690

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS



*"My wish is to celebrate my Sweet 16th birthday
with my friends and family!"*

share the power
of a wishSM

Saipan Tribune

MAKE-A-WISH

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB 08-028

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids from Regionally Accredited Institutions of Higher Learning for the Extension of College Level Coursework Leading to the Completion of a either a Bachelor's or Master's Degree. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-028" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **May 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-028, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.**

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer



U.S. PROBATION OFFICE
DISTRICTS OF GUAM AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Vacancy Announcement No: GUP 08-001

Position Title:	Probation Support Specialist
Type of Appointment:	Part-Time Temporary Indefinite (may be converted to Full-Time in the future)
Classification Level:	Court Personnel System - Grade CL-24
Salary Range:	\$28,806 to \$46,866 per annum plus 25% COLA
Area of Consideration:	All Sources
Opening Date:	May 18, 2008
Closing Date:	June 6, 2008 (close of business - 5pm)
Location of Vacancy:	Saipan (Part-Time)

Position Overview

The Probation Support Specialist provides administrative, clerical and operations support to Probation Officers and Management staff for the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office in the Districts of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. Work is performed under the supervision of the U.S. Probation Officer Specialist and the Chief U.S. Probation Officer or designee.

Representative Duties and Responsibilities (summarized)

The duties and responsibilities include, but not limited to: 1) formatting, typing, editing and finalizing reports prepared by Probation Officers, and prepares letters, memoranda, forms and routine correspondence for Probation Officers; 2) assisting Probation Officers in managing their caseloads by performing a variety of operations tasks for supervision and investigation activities; 3) Entering client data into electronic databases and makes entries into chronological records in supervision case files; 4) Conducting criminal record checks and investigations through local and national law enforcement files and databases; 5) Processing incoming fine and restitution receipts and maintains statement balances in case files, and similarly with community service hours and urinalysis log results; 6) Providing general clerical and office support by performing a variety of administrative, clerical and operations tasks; and 7) Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

This position requires the following: 1) High school diploma, or the equivalent, and a minimum of two years of general experience and one year of specialized experience. General experience is progressively responsible clerical, office, or work that indicates the possession of, or the ability to acquire, the particular knowledge and skills needed to perform the duties of the position. Specialized experience is progressively responsible clerical or administrative experience requiring the regular and recurring application of clerical procedures involving the routine use of keyboard skills and use of specialized terminology, and demonstrated ability to apply a body of rules, regulations, directives, or laws. Specialized experience includes work in, or closely related to, the work of the Probation Support Specialist. Education above the high school level in accredited institutions may be substituted for the general experience on the basis of one academic year equals nine months of experience. Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible to work in the United States.

Other Requirements

This position requires the proficiency in the use of personal computers to include the ability to type 40 words per minute; working knowledge of Microsoft Windows XP™ or higher, WordPerfect 9™ or higher, and Internet browsers; strong organizational, writing, and verbal communication skills to include a good knowledge of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical usage; and ability to work well with a wide variety of people with diverse backgrounds.

Conditions of Employment

This position falls within the Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government and includes most federal government benefits, which is dependent upon full-time or part-time employment status. Employees are required to adhere to the Judicial Code of Conduct, which is available upon request. The final candidate will undergo a criminal background investigation and fingerprint check. Employees are Excepted Service ("at will") employees and serve at the pleasure of the Court. This position is subject to mandatory participation in Electronic Fund Transfer for payroll deposit.

Application Procedure

Qualified applicants must submit an original and two copies of each of the following: 1) letter of interest, 2) resume with 3 personal references, and 3) a completed AO 78 (Application for Employment) to:

Vacancy Announcement GUP 08-001

Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon
Chief U.S. Probation Officer
U.S. Probation Office - District of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 502089
4th Floor Horiguchi Bldg., Rm. 4D, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950
671-473-9201 (Guam office)

A copy of this announcement and the AO 78 (Application for Employment) are available at the U.S. Probation Office or on the United States Courts website at <http://www.uscourts.gov/employment.html>.

All application documents must be received at the U.S. Probation Office address above no later than **Friday, June 6, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.** Applications will not be accepted via email or facsimile. Untimely applications will not be considered. The most qualified applicants will be invited to, and must be physically present for, a personal interview. Such applicants may be subject to a computer proficiency test. Travel expenses and relocation expenses will not be reimbursed. All application information will be subject to verification.

The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID IFB 08-030

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of Fences for Various Head Start Centers** Located in the CNMI. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available, for a fee of twenty (20) dollars, at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-030" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-030, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz
Acting P & S Officer

Celtics beat Pistons in Detroit; lead series 2-1



AUBURN HILLS, Mich.

(AP)—Kevin Garnett led the Boston Celtics to their first win on the road in the playoffs. He had plenty of help. Garnett scored 22 points and was one of six players to make the Celtics' first six baskets, helping them build the first of many big leads en route to a 94-80 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Saturday night and a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

The NBA's top-seeded team had lost its first six road games—tying a league record—and was 9-0 at home until losing Detroit in the previous game.

"We took care of business, getting our first win on the road," Garnett said.

The Pistons will host Game 4 on Monday night.

"They got home court back," Detroit coach Flip Saunders said. "Monday is a crucial game for us—the biggest of the year."

Detroit rallied to pull within 87-78—its smallest deficit since midway through the second quarter—but couldn't get closer in a game in which it trailed by as many as 24 points.

"We didn't come out and play. That's it point blank," Pistons



Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (5) argues for a foul call during the first quarter of Game 3 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Detroit Pistons Saturday, May 24, 2008, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

rookie reserve Rodney Stuckey said. "We didn't give no effort at all at the start of the game, and you can't do that against a team like that."

Boston's Big Three scored as much as its supporting cast.

Garnett, Ray Allen (14) and

Paul Pierce (11) combined for 47 points to match the rest of the team. Kendrick Perkins, Rajon Rondo and James Posey each scored 12 for the Celtics.

"Their role players really hurt us," Saunders said.

Detroit's Richard Hamilton

scored 26 points and Stuckey added 17.

Tayshaun Prince scored four points on 2-of-11 shooting and Chauncey Billups had six points and appeared to be slowed after aggravating his right hamstring injury in Game 2.

Boston, which scored the first 11 points, led 50-32 after holding Detroit to a playoff-low in the first half and getting at least two points from each of the nine Celtics who played.

"The main concentration was to come out aggressive and get the lead early," Pierce said.

The Pistons pulled within 13 early in the second half only to have their comeback hopes dashed by the Celtics' 12-0 run.

Boston led by 20-plus points late in the third quarter and ABC-TV showed mercy for Saunders, letting him off the hook for his previously scheduled interview before the fourth.

Besides making shots and playing tough defense, the Celtics beat Detroit to a lot of loose balls and offensive rebounds.

Garnett went to the bench with two fouls 5 minutes into the game and his replacement, P.J. Brown, promptly dunked on

his first offensive possession.

The Pistons responded with a 13-0 run to go ahead for the first time only to let the Celtics score the last 10 points of the quarter and take a 25-17 lead.

Boston used nine players in the first quarter and they all scored, helping the team shoot 53 percent and hold Detroit to 30 percent.

After the Pistons pulled within four early in the second quarter, Boston went on a 16-3 run and maintained the cushion as it ended the first half ahead 50-32.

Pierce had just two points, making the lead even more impressive.

Garnett's jumper on the opening possession of the second half put Boston ahead by 20 before Detroit showed some signs of life.

The Pistons pulled within 13 midway through the third, leading to the Celtics calling a timeout.

Boston then scored seven straight, forcing Detroit to call a timeout to search for answers again.

"They came out aggressive and we missed some shots," Saunders said. "We're the type of team, the way we play, we try to grind it out. It's tough to play from behind like that."

Pacman Jones pays \$20,000 gambling debt to casino



LAS VEGAS

(AP)—Suspended Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones paid \$20,000 to a Las Vegas casino Friday to settle a criminal bad check case.

"We filed a criminal complaint. Within 24 hours, Mr. Jones found a way to make restitution," said Clark County District Attorney David Roger. "Case closed."

Jones paid \$20,000 to cover three casino markers he received Sept. 3 at Caesars Palace, said Bernie Zadrowski, chief of the district attorney's bad check unit. Jones also paid \$1,675 in fees and penalties.

In Nevada, unpaid casino markers, or loans to gamblers, are treated as bad checks and are turned over to the district attorney for prosecution.

Zadrowski said another \$3,000 penalty cited in court documents filed Friday would have been added if a felony theft warrant had been issued. No such warrant was issued.

"It's unfortunate that a non-story became public," Jones' lawyer, Manny Arora, said after the money was paid.

Arora acknowledged Jones owed the debt to Caesars Palace, but said he had been quietly trying to arrange payment.

He accused Roger of filing the criminal complaint against Jones after a similar case involving retired NBA star Charles Barkley won widespread notoriety earlier in the week. Roger denied Arora's claim.

"In Mr. Jones' case, we were working with him since February to obtain restitution," Roger said. "We determined he was not acting in good faith, and we filed a criminal complaint."

Roger threatened to file criminal charges against Barkley before he settled his debt by paying \$400,000 to reimburse the Wynn Las Vegas resort for four casino markers he received in October, Zadrowski said. Barkley also paid \$40,000 in fees.

Gary Thompson, a spokesman for Caesars Palace owner Harrah's Entertainment Inc., declined comment on Jones' case, which was first reported Friday by the Las Vegas Sun.

Jones' Labor Day 2007 visit to Caesars came while he was facing felony coercion charges for his role in a strip club triple shooting that left a man paralyzed in Las Vegas in February 2007.

Jones pleaded no contest Dec. 6 to conspiracy to commit disorderly conduct in a deal that reduced two felony charges of coercion stemming from the strip club shooting. The coercion charges each carried a possible sentence of one to six years in prison.

In return, Jones agreed to tell police what he knew about the gunman. Jones never acknowledged any role in the shooting.

The alleged gunman, Arvin Kent Edwards, was arrested in April after Jones picked him from a police lineup, and remains jailed in Seattle pending an extradition hearing.

The NFL has no policy against players gambling in casinos, as long as they do not wager on NFL games. However, the league is closely watching Jones, who was indefinitely suspended last season by commissioner Roger Goodell and recently was traded from the Tennessee Titans to the Dallas Cowboys.

"We're aware of it and we are looking into it," league spokesman Greg Aiello said Friday.

Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple said the club had no comment.

Arora said Jones has not been paid since his suspension in March 2007 and has been "moving assets around" to pay bills. The suspension came after the star cornerback's sixth arrest since he was drafted by the Titans in the first round in 2005.

Jones had been scheduled for a base salary of \$1.74 million in 2008 and had been under contract through 2009 before his suspension.

Mickelson still alone at top of Colonial leaderboard

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—The frustration was evident on Phil Mickelson's face during a slow start in the third round of the Crowne Plaza Invitational.

Lefty was feeling a lot better—and still in the lead alone—when he finished the third round Saturday with a 17-foot birdie putt from the front edge.

"A nice way to finish the round," Mickelson said.

Mickelson overcame an early bogey and some missed chances with seven birdies in his last 13 holes for a 5-under 65 that got him to 12-under 198. He led Rod Pampling (63) and Stephen Ames (64) by one stroke.

Pampling was on pace for a record-tying round at Colonial, the course near the Australian native's Flower Mound home that he gets to play often. But he had consecutive bogeys at 16 and 17 before hitting his approach at No. 18 within a foot for a birdie that left him two strokes off the tournament record.

Ames started with three birdies in the first four holes and finished without a bogey.

Tim Clark (64) was alone in fourth, three strokes back. Ben Crane (67), Kevin Sutherland (68) and Brian Gay (69) were at 203.

This is the 27th time Mickelson will lead going into the final round

of a tournament, and this time he will be going for his second plaid jacket at Colonial. He has gone on to win 19 times, including the Northern Trust Open in February, his only victory this season.

The last six Colonial champions led or were tied for the lead after 54 holes. The last time that didn't happen was 2001, when then-defending champion Mickelson and Brett Quigley were tied going into the final round before Sergio Garcia won.

After hitting his first shot of the day into a fairway bunker and having to settle for par 5 on the opening hole, Mickelson was less than 30 yards from the flag after a 333-yard drive at No. 2. But he flubbed the chip shot, leaving it in the rough short of the green then two-putted from inside 8 feet for bogey.

When an 11-foot birdie chance at the 467-yard 3rd slid by the hole, after hitting a low-liner from the rough that rolled up near the flag, Mickelson shook his head in disbelief. The frustration didn't go away when a 24-foot birdie try at the difficult 252-yard par-3 4th stopped just short.

While Mickelson struggled early, Pampling and Ames were off to fast starts.

By time Mickelson first saw a

scoreboard after finishing his fifth hole, Pampling was already three strokes ahead of him at 9 under.

"I was behind quite a bit," Mickelson said. "It's tough to be patient when I'm watching guys shoot 4 or 5 under through nine."

The first birdie for Mickelson finally came after his approach to 5 feet at the 394-yard 6th. But he missed an 8-footer on the next hole.

Mickelson hit his approach at No. 9 within 6 inches for a tap-in, the first of three consecutive birdies that got him to 10 under. He knocked his second shot at 10 to 5 feet, and blasted from a greenside bunker at the 611-yard 11th to about 4 feet.

A bogey followed at No. 12, when he decided to chip instead of putt from the front fringe and knocked it 8 feet past the cup. He saved par out of the greenside bunker at the par-3 13th by hitting inside 3 feet before two more birdies, with approach shots inside 10 feet at Nos. 14 and 15.

Pampling rolled in 17-foot birdies at Nos. 1 and 3, then knocked his tee shot at the long par-3 inside 4 feet. When he made an 8-footer at No. 14, he was 12 under.



Yankees down Mariners, win fourth straight game



NEW YORK
(AP)—The New York Yankees posted their first

four-game winning streak of a stumbling season, beating the Seattle Mariners 12-6 in the American League on Saturday.

Starting pitcher Mike Mussina survived five shaky innings before turning it over to Joba Chamberlain and New York's reshaped bullpen.

The Yankees, who remain last in the East Division, have shown signs of stirring over the past four games, outscoring opponents 35-9.

New York improved to 5-0 this season against the Mariners, who have the joint-worst record in the majors. Seattle has been outscored 44-12 by the Yankees.

Blue Jays 6, Royals 0

In Toronto, the home team shut down Kansas City, extending the Royals' losing streak to six.

Jesse Litsch pitched a seven-hitter in his first career complete game and Brad Wilkerson hit a grand slam for the Blue Jays.

Litsch struck out three and won his fourth straight decision. He extended his streak of innings without a walk to 38 2-3, three more than Jimmy Key's previous Toronto record in 1990. The streak ended with a base on balls with two outs in the ninth.

Kansas City was shut out for the sixth time this season—tied for second in the majors behind Detroit's seven. The Royals have lost seven of eight.

Angels 2, White Sox 0

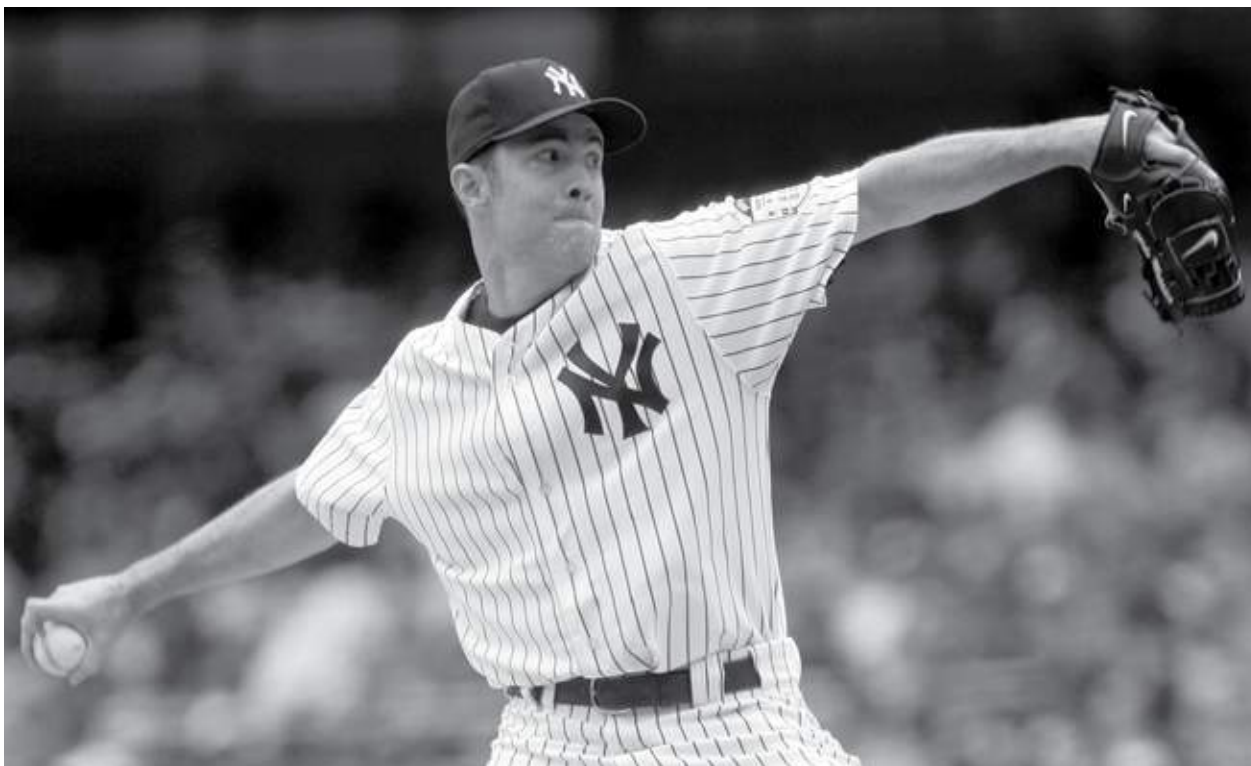
In Chicago, Los Angeles' Jered Weaver pitched three-hit ball over eight innings to shut down Chicago.

Vladimir Guerrero hit a go-ahead home run in the sixth for the Angels, who have won five of six.

Weaver struck out six and improved to 3-0 with an 0.34 ERA in four career starts against the White Sox, who lost successive games after an eight-game winning streak.

Rays 11, Orioles 4

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Evan Longoria homered twice and had six RBIs to lead Tampa Bay past Baltimore.



New York Yankees' Mike Mussina delivers during the first inning against the Seattle Mariners in Major League Baseball action Saturday, May 24, 2008 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

It was Longoria's first career multi-homer game. The rookie hit a three-run shot during a four-run first, and had a two-run drive in a five-run second.

The Rays improved to a franchise-best nine games over .500, and have won 14 of their past 15 games at home.

Indians 5, Rangers 2

In Cleveland, the home team snapped its seven-game losing streak with a win over Texas.

Pitcher Cliff Lee bounced back from his only poor outing this season and Ben Francisco hit a three-run homer for the Indians.

Francisco, robbed of a three-run homer by an umpire's bad call Friday, left nothing to chance in the third inning, smacking the ball well over the leftfield wall to put Cleveland ahead 4-2 in the third inning.

Tigers 19, Twins 3

In Detroit, Magglio Ordonez homered twice and drove in six runs as Detroit routed Minnesota.

Ordenez hit a two-run homer to left in the first inning, then doubled in two

runners during a four-run third that gave the Tigers the lead for good. He added a two-run shot in a six-run fourth. The six RBIs matched his career high.

Athletics 3, Red Sox 0

In Oakland, California, Justin Duchscherer carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning as Oakland shut down Boston.

Ryan Sweeney homered and the Athletics recorded their first series win over the Red Sox in their past five.

Duchscherer had a perfect game going into the sixth before he hit Jason Varitek with a pitch to start the inning. He struck out four and didn't issue a walk in eight innings, allowing just one hit.

Mets 9, Rockies 2

In Denver, the New York Mets eased some of the growing pressure on manager Willie Randolph by beating the Colorado Rockies ending a five-game losing streak.

New York general manager Omar Minaya made the holiday weekend trip to Colorado, leading to speculation that Randolph is under evaluation and his

job could be in jeopardy.

Braves 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Atlanta, Jeff Francoeur hit a game-ending, two-run homer in the ninth inning as Atlanta downed Arizona.

The Braves overcame a 10-strikeout performance by veteran Diamondbacks pitcher Randy Johnson.

Johnson reached double-digits in strikeouts for the first time in 12 months and the 210th time overall, five behind Nolan Ryan's record. The Big Unit allowed only one run and no walks in six innings.

With 4,663 strikeouts, Johnson needs nine to tie Roger Clemens for second place behind Ryan.

Atlanta has won seven of its past eight games while the Diamondbacks have lost five of six.

With the score 1-1 in the ninth, Chipper Jones walked leading off, Mark Teixeira grounded out and Francoeur homered on his second pitch.

Brewers 5, Nationals 2

In Washington, pitcher Seth McClung was victorious in his first start in almost two years as Milwaukee beat

Washington.

Corey Hart and Mike Cameron homered for the Brewers, who posted a rare road win.

Replacing ineffective Carlos Villanueva in the rotation, McClung allowed only two runs over five innings, conceding only one hit in the first four.

Astros 4, Phillies 3

In Houston, the home team turned a dramatic double play to secure a victory over Philadelphia.

The Phillies loaded the bases with one out in the ninth inning. Shane Victorino flew out to Darin Erstad in left field, and Erstad threw a perfect throw to catcher Brad Ausmus, who tagged out Pedro Feliz at the plate to end the game in spectacular fashion.

Carlos Lee drove in three runs for the Astros.

Pirates 5, Cubs 4

In Pittsburgh, Jason Bay hit the game-winning single in the 14th inning to give Pittsburgh victory over Chicago.

The Pirates, who led 3-1 until the Cubs went ahead with three runs in the eighth, tied it 4-4 in the ninth.

With bases loaded in the top of the 14th, Bay lofted a deep fly to center field to bring home Freddy Sanchez. Bay earlier hit a two-run homer.

Cardinals 4, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Kyle Lohse won for the first time in almost a month, pitching six scoreless innings to lead St. Louis past Los Angeles.

Lohse struck out five and walked none, allowing only one runner past second base.

Reds 7, Padres 2

In San Diego, rookie Joey Votto hit a three-run homer, and finished with four RBIs to lead Cincinnati over hapless San Diego.

It was the second straight win for bench coach Chris Speier, who was filling in for manager Dusty Baker, serving a suspension for bumping an umpire after being ejected Thursday.

The Reds win could have been even easier, as they stranded 14 runners, including leaving the bases loaded twice.

Back at Roland Garros, retired Henin rules out comeback



PARIS (AP)—Justine Henin is certain that she's done playing tennis.

"I don't think I will ever come back. I think that it's important just to move on," Henin said at Roland Garros on

Saturday, the day before the French Open starts.

Earlier this month, she became the first woman to retire while No. 1 in the WTA rankings, opting not to try for a fourth consecutive French Open championship.

The 25-year-old Belgian said Saturday that she didn't retire because of any health issues—she just does not feel the passion for playing tennis that carried her to seven Grand Slam singles titles.

"Now I don't need the competition to be happy. I don't need this adrenaline being in front of thousands of people to really be happy," Henin said. "I just need to be myself. I'm a simple person. I can live very easily."

She said it took her months to decide to walk away from the sport she dominated for stretches of the past few years.

Henin won a total of four French Open titles, prompting French tennis federation president Christian Bimes to say Saturday: "Justine will be one of the great names of tennis forever here in Ro-

land Garros."

She also won the Australian Open in 2004, and the U.S. Open in 2003 and 2007. She was ranked No. 1 for more than 100 weeks and won nearly \$20 million in prize money.

Henin was struggling by her standards this season, but still stunned the tennis world with her announcement—particularly because it came right before the French Open.

"It's sad. It's a pity for tennis: The very top player quits tennis. She certainly has her own reasons. I hope she has good reasons, because it's an extreme decision," Roger Federer said Friday at Roland Garros. "What I'm surprised about is her timing, because it was so sudden."

Henin's explanation? If she didn't feel up to giving her all, she didn't feel up to giving her all, no matter where.

Even at what she called her favorite event.

"If I feel I'm at the end of my way, there is no reason why I should play this tournament," she said.

"I don't need this anymore," she continued. "I know what I did here in the past, and I don't need to live this again. I'm fine with my career. I'm really happy and proud of what I did, and I don't need to live these moments anymore."



Former Belgian tennis ace Justine Henin gets a kiss from Christian Bimes, head of the French Tennis Federation, before a press conference Saturday May 24, 2008 at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

CNMI netters bow out of Guam Open

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



The May-September tandem of Chuck Sayon and Nicolas Son represented the CNMI in the 5th Annual Guam International Tennis Open, but bowed out before the weekend was through.

The tournament is being held at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa.

Sayon and Son played in from Saipan Friday and immediately saw action. With the buzz from the 45-minute flight still lingering in their heads, the duo put up a fight but couldn't pull off a win, losing 4-6, 3-6 against Bill Camacho and Benjamin Dunn in the men's doubles 5.0.

Son also saw action in the men's 5.0 singles but lost in the quarterfinals against former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup player Lency Tenai, 1-6, 0-6.

Tanai holds the Pacific Oceania record for most total wins and doubles wins and he currently is the tennis pro at Hilton Guam Resort & Spa, working under Tennis



Sayon



Son

Academy of Guam.

Other men's singles 5.0 results saw Justin Dugan defeat Bill Camacho, 6-4, 6-2; Wendell Roden beat Benjamin Dunn, 6-2, 7-5; and Shozo Nishiguchi take out Jay Cruz, 6-1, 6-1.

Action in the men's 4.5 singles saw Alex Penafiel defeat Peter Lai, 6-4, 6-4; Jan Rudolph win over Jeff Bristol, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5; Sam Lai beat Tae Heon

Kim, 6-2, 6-2; and Jimmy Tsang thump William Koo, 6-0, 6-3.

Men's 3.0 singles had Ian Batherson over Stanley Rice, 6-4, 6-0; Kazuya Shintani outclass Landon Nadler, 6-0, 7-5; and Jose Gallego eke out a 6-4, 6-4 victory Masahiro Hayashi.

Men's 2.0 singles, meanwhile, had Christian Penafiel defeat Evan Hizon, 6-0, 6-0; Adrien de Thoisy beat Alfred Chan, 6-2, 7-6

(2); Corey Morrison fashion out a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win over Blake Bristol; Krisnan Penafiel exact a 6-1, 6-0 win over William Lee.

Matches were also played in the men's 35+ singles, women's 3.0 singles, women's 2.0 singles, men's 5.0 doubles, men's 4.5 doubles, men's 35+ doubles, women's 3.0 doubles, women's 2.0 doubles, mixed 5.0 doubles, mixed 4.5 doubles, and mixed

3.0 doubles.

This year's tournament is in preparation for the hosting of a professional level tournament that will feature an invitational 16-Player Males Singles Challenge and an 8-Team Doubles Draw. The goal of the Guam International Tennis Open is to become a points-earning professional level tournament.

Confirmed players for the sin-

gles Challenge include Thailand's Danai Udomchoke, currently ranked No. 197 in the world. Just a little over a year ago, Udomchoke was ranked No. 77 in the world. Udomchoke played in all four tennis grand slam events in 2007, including advancing to the third round of the Australian Open losing to the 2008 champion in four sets. His doubles rank is No. 289 in the world.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS					Mark Wilson	70-67-68	205
<div>AMERICAN LEAGUE</div> <div>East Division</div> <div>W</div> <div>L</div> <div>Pct</div> <div>GB</div> <div>Boston</div> <div>31</div> <div>21</div> <div>.596</div> <div>—</div> <div>Tampa Bay</div> <div>29</div> <div>20</div> <div>.592</div> <div>1/2</div> <div>Toronto</div> <div>26</div> <div>25</div> <div>.510</div> <div>4 1/2</div> <div>Baltimore</div> <div>24</div> <div>24</div> <div>.500</div> <div>5</div> <div>New York</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div> <div>.490</div> <div>5 1/2</div> <div>Central Division</div> <div>Chicago</div> <div>26</div> <div>22</div> <div>.542</div> <div>—</div> <div>Minnesota</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div> <div>.490</div> <div>2 1/2</div> <div>Cleveland</div> <div>23</div> <div>26</div> <div>.469</div> <div>3 1/2</div> <div>Detroit</div> <div>21</div> <div>28</div> <div>.429</div> <div>5 1/2</div> <div>Kansas City</div> <div>21</div> <div>28</div> <div>.429</div> <div>5 1/2</div> <div>West Division</div> <div>Los Angeles</div> <div>30</div> <div>21</div> <div>.588</div> <div>—</div> <div>Oakland</div> <div>27</div> <div>23</div> <div>.540</div> <div>2 1/2</div> <div>Texas</div> <div>25</div> <div>26</div> <div>.490</div> <div>5</div> <div>Seattle</div> <div>18</div> <div>32</div> <div>.360</div> <div>11 1/2</div> <div>NATIONAL LEAGUE</div> <div>East Division</div> <div>Florida</div> <div>27</div> <div>20</div> <div>.574</div> <div>—</div> <div>Atlanta</div> <div>27</div> <div>22</div> <div>.551</div> <div>1</div> <div>Philadelphia</div> <div>27</div> <div>24</div> <div>.529</div> <div>2</div> <div>New York</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>.489</div> <div>4</div> <div>Washington</div> <div>21</div> <div>29</div> <div>.420</div> <div>7 1/2</div> <div>Central Division</div> <div>Chicago</div> <div>29</div> <div>20</div> <div>.592</div> <div>—</div> <div>St. Louis</div> <div>30</div> <div>21</div> <div>.588</div> <div>—</div> <div>Houston</div> <div>29</div> <div>22</div> <div>.569</div> <div>1</div> <div>Milwaukee</div> <div>23</div> <div>26</div> <div>.469</div> <div>6</div> <div>Pittsburgh</div> <div>23</div> <div>26</div> <div>.469</div> <div>6</div> <div>Cincinnati</div> <div>23</div> <div>27</div> <div>.460</div> <div>6 1/2</div> <div>West Division</div> <div>Arizona</div> <div>29</div> <div>20</div> <div>.592</div> <div>—</div> <div>Los Angeles</div> <div>25</div> <div>23</div> <div>.521</div> <div>3 1/2</div> <div>San Francisco</div> <div>20</div> <div>29</div> <div>.408</div> <div>9</div> <div>Colorado</div> <div>19</div> <div>30</div> <div>.388</div> <div>10</div> <div>San Diego</div> <div>18</div> <div>33</div> <div>.353</div> <div>12</div> <div>Yesterday's Games</div> <div>N.Y. Mets 9, Colorado 2</div> <div>Atlanta 3, Arizona 1</div> <div>Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 4, 14 innings</div> <div>Houston 4, Philadelphia 3</div> <div>San Francisco at Florida, ppd., rain</div> <div>Milwaukee 5, Washington 2</div> <div>Cincinnati 7, San Diego 2</div> <div>St. Louis 4, L.A. Dodgers 0</div> <div>N.Y. Yankees 12, Seattle 6</div> <div>Toronto 6, Kansas City 0</div> <div>L.A. Angels 2, Chicago White Sox 0</div> <div>Tampa Bay 11, Baltimore 4</div> <div>Detroit 19, Minnesota 3</div> <div>Cleveland 5, Texas 2</div> <div>Oakland 3, Boston 0</div> <div>COREY PAVIN</div> <div>Geoff Ogilvy</div> <div>Mark Brooks</div> <div>Brian Bateman</div> <div>Vaughn Taylor</div> <div>Matt Kuchar</div> <div>Chris DiMarco</div> <div>Mike Weir</div> <div>Brett Quigley</div> <div>Alex Cejka</div> <div>Robert Garrigus</div> <div>Bart Bryant</div> <div>Jose Coceres</div> <div>Dean Wilson</div> <div>David Toms</div> <div>Ben Curtis</div> <div>Pat Perez</div> <div>Ian Poulter</div> <div>Johnson Wagner</div> <div>Sean O'Hair</div> <div>Daniel Chopra</div> <div>Charlie Wi</div> <div>Tim Herron</div> <div>George McNeill</div> <div>James Driscoll</div> <div>Richard Johnson</div> <div>Steve Lowery</div> <div>Patrick Sheehan</div> <div>Joe Ogilvie</div> <div>Heath Slocum</div> <div>Kevin Stadler</div> <div>Mathew Goggin</div> <div>Glen Day</div> <div>Nicholas Thompson</div> <div>Billy Mayfair</div> <div>Ryan Palmer</div> <div>Steve Marino</div> <div>Tag Ridings</div> <div>Jon Mills</div> <div>Parker McLachlin</div> <div>John Merrick</div> <div>Brian Davis</div> <div>Jason Bohn</div> <div>Kenny Perry</div> <div>Nathan Green</div> <div>Ryan Moore</div> <div>Justin Leonard</div> <div>Bubba Watson</div> <div>Anthony Kim</div> <div>Carl Pettersson</div> <div>Kevin Na</div> <div>Rocco Mediate</div> <div>Arron Oberholser</div> <div>Nick O'Hern</div> <div>Steve Elkington</div> <div>Olin Browne</div> <div>Bo Van Pelt</div> <div>Chez Reavie</div> <div>Brett Wetterich</div> <div>Chris Kirk</div> <div>Dustin Johnson</div> <div>Fulton Allem</div> <div>Charley Hoffman</div> <div>Rich Beem</div> <div>Steve Flesch</div>					205		
					Corey Pavin	67-69-69	205
					Geoff Ogilvy	72-64-69	205
					Mark Brooks	67-68-70	205
					Brian Bateman	70-65-70	205
					Vaughn Taylor	67-68-70	205
					Matt Kuchar	70-64-71	205
					Chris DiMarco	72-69-65	206
					Mike Weir	71-69-66	206
					Brett Quigley	70-69-67	206
					Alex Cejka	67-72-67	206
					Robert Garrigus	70-69-67	206
					Bart Bryant	72-65-69	206
					Jose Coceres	68-69-69	206
					Dean Wilson	72-69-66	207
					David Toms	72-69-66	207
					Ben Curtis	69-71-67	207
					Pat Perez	72-68-67	207
					Ian Poulter	68-70-69	207
					Johnson Wagner	63-71-73	207
					Sean O'Hair	72-70-66	208
					Daniel Chopra	73-68-67	208
					Charlie Wi	71-70-67	208
					Tim Herron	73-67-68	208
					George McNeill	69-71-68	208
					James Driscoll	69-70-69	208
					Richard Johnson	67-69-72	208
					Steve Lowery	68-67-73	208
					Patrick Sheehan	70-72-67	209
					Joe Ogilvie	72-70-67	209
					Heath Slocum	74-68-67	209
					Kevin Stadler	71-70-68	209
					Mathew Goggin	67-73-69	209
					Glen Day	66-74-69	209
					Nicholas Thompson	71-69-69	209
					Billy Mayfair	71-69-69	209
					Ryan Palmer	70-70-69	209
					Steve Marino	68-70-71	209
					Tag Ridings	69-68-72	209
					Jon Mills	72-69-69	210
					Parker McLachlin	70-70-70	210
					John Merrick	70-70-70	210
					Brian Davis	68-72-70	210
					Jason Bohn	73-67-70	210
					Kenny Perry	70-69-71	210
					Nathan Green	71-68-71	210
					Ryan Moore	71-68-71	210
					Justin Leonard	70-72-69	211
					Bubba Watson	69-73-69	211
					Anthony Kim	69-72-70	211
					Carl Pettersson	72-69-70	211
					Kevin Na	70-71-70	211
					Rocco Mediate	73-68-70	211
					Arron Oberholser	70-71-71	212
					Nick O'Hern	70-70-72	212
					Steve Elkington	73-67-72	212
					Olin Browne	74-68-71	213
					Bo Van Pelt	72-70-71	213
					Chez Reavie	73-68-72	213
					Brett Wetterich	65-76-72	213
					Chris Kirk	72-70-72	214
					Dustin Johnson	73-69-72	214
					Fulton Allem	72-69-73	214
					Charley Hoffman	72-69-73	214
					Rich Beem	73-68-73	214
Steve Flesch	72-70-74	216					

CROWNE PLAZA INVITATIONAL

SCORES

THIRD ROUND

Phil Mickelson

65-68-65

198

Rod Pamplung

69-67-63

199

Stephen Ames

68-67-64

199

Tim Clark

68-69-64

201

Ben Crane

68-68-67

203

Kevin Sutherland

67-68-68

203

Brian Gay

69-65-69

203

Lucas Glover

70-70-65

205

Jerry Kelly

68-71-66

205

Jeff Quinney

71-68-66

205

Paul Goydos

68-71-66

205

Briny Baird

68-70-67

205

Tommy Armour III

71-66-68

205

HEO

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6-2, 6-0 lopsided victory over Russell Buenaventura.

Race, however, may not be in tip-top shape for today's finals, as the former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup captain is currently under the weather.

Nonetheless, he promised to try his best to make a game out of his finals match against his former student Heo.

Heo, for his part, said he will treat his match against Race like he would any other match. He said he is trying to play as many local matches as possible to prepare himself for yet another off-island tournament early next month.

In the men's 4.5 singles, Richard Asuncion will face Lope Padilla in the finals also set today at the San Antonio landmark.

Asuncion advanced to the finals after carving out a 6-5, 6-2 victory over Buenaventura,

while Padilla surprised Nanding Cajigan, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2, in their own semifinals.

Padilla and Buenaventura were seeded first and second in the division and were granted byes in the first round. Asuncion and Cajigan, for their part, had to hurdle Woo Suk Chang (6-4, 6-4) and Bong Gamab (6-1, retired), respectively, to make it to the next round.

James Camacho, meanwhile, is fast becoming one of the most promising young tennis players in the Commonwealth, and proof of this was his 7-5, 6-4 victory over Hector Benitez yesterday that landed him in the finals of the men's 4.0.

Camacho victimized Gary Ramsey in the first round, 6-0, 6-1, while Benitez was a 6-2, 7-5 winner over Mario Buensuceso.

In the other semis of the men's 4.0, Gabe Boyer was still battling Jorge Olanda as of press time. Boyer got a bye in the opening round, while Olanda

beat Ricky Castro, 6-3, 6-2.

Dodong Salinas advanced to the championship round of the men's 3.0 after a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Ely Dolero. He will await the winner of the semis match between Dong Ik Jang and Christian Miller.

Boyer and J.W. Jang each have won against Ramsey in the round-robin format of the 40-and-over singles.

In the women's side, Vivian Lee has one hand wrapped around the women's open championship trophy after beating Lila Mailman in their semi-finals duel, 7-5, 7-5, yesterday. She will face the winner of the match between Mayuko Arriola and Eun Kyung Lee.

In the women's 3.0/2.0, Dina Jones and Jodel Fernandez will square off in the championship round today after each took different routes to the finals yesterday.

Jones waltzed her way to the finals with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Kinumi Tanigichi, while Fernan-

dez needed three sets to overcome Sakiko Eda, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

In the doubles, Heo and Cody Race teamed up to beat Nathan Nutting and Rafael Jones, 6-3, 6-4, to get a good start in the round-robin boys' 16-and-under, while Calvin Yang and Woo Suk Chang handed Nutting and Jones a 6-0, 6-2 loss.

Jake Lee and Clay McCullough-Stearns, meanwhile, will take on Miller and Tommy Choi in the boys' 12-and-under finals.

Lee and McCullough-Stearns were a 6-0, 6-1 winner over Jordan Butcher and Aaron Lee, while Miller and Choi advanced following a 6-4, 5-7, 6-0 triumph over Ebzen Pabellon and Carl Dela Cruz.

In the girls' 12-and-under, Mikayla Lopez and Kris Obaldo were a 6-0, 6-3 winner over Tammy Ackerman and Emily Jones, while Gabrielle Race and Neghar Rastguiry defeated Ackerman and Jones, 6-2, 6-4.

STEWART

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all the Escape was a success and everyone who took part experienced a great day of swimming. None probably more than can-

cer survivor Mary Anne Stewart who once again took part in the Escape after inspiring everyone in her first Managaha Island to Micro Beach crossing last year.

"Mary Ann is, as she should be, continues to be an inspiration to me and many others here. She

is surviving a most dreaded situation and still living life to the fullest. Which in itself should be a great lesson to all of us—"One day at a time, babe, one day at a time," said Michael Stewart.

Lester Lapuz and Sarah Johnson were the first out of the

water in last Saturday's Escape with times of 43 minutes flat and 42:21, respectively. The other top finishers were Kai Staal (43:27) and Colin Thompson (43:43) for the men and Grace Kimbal (45:31) and Mamiko Shimizu (48:58) for the women.

ADVANCE

From Page 28

respectively, for Advance, while Bernardo pumped in a game-high 35 in a losing cause.

It was Advance's seventh win in eight games to tie it with erstwhile solo leader Ol'Aces in the open division. The loss dropped SMF Seabridge to 3-4.

GEC Pawnshop, for its part, got eight overtime points from Molly

Cacho as they outscored Bank of Saipan, 17-8, in the extra session to improve its win-loss mark to 5-2 in the masters division.

Cacho was the evening's top scorer with 44 points, while Sonny Ranola and Amor Casabuena pumped in 28 and 23 more for GEC Pawnshop.

Bank of Saipan, which dropped to 3-4, was paced by the 28 markers of Sonny Ebuen and the 27 of outside gunner James Abuy.

First Game
GEC Pawnshop 115 – Cachoch 44, Ranola 28, Casabuena 23, Olivos 16, Buenabajo 2, Peredo 2.

Bank of Saipan 106 – Ebuen 28, Abuy 27, Ocampo 14, Lopez 10, Darag 8, Villegas 5, Marasigan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-25, 49-57, 77-81, 98-98, 115-106 (OT).

Referees: Dado Vistal and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game
Advance X-Terminators 108 – Lim 22, Estolas 21, Pagarao 20, Villarin 16, Fital 11, Ruloked 6, Mendoza 4, Gamboa 4, Dayrit 4.

SMF Seabridge 97 – Bernardo 35, Galvez 13, Capalad 12, Hugos 11, Mortos 10, Demegillo 8, Manansala 6, Siriban 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-21, 60-39, 84-67, 108-97.

Referees: Michael White and Arnold Mesa.

33rd Annual Laguna Regatta

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



The four-boat fleet of the 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta, with the support boat in the middle. From left, the Hobie cats of Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough, Ron Smith and Ted Parker, Lino Olopai and Amada Rabauliman, and Tyce and Angie Mister. The event was held in the Saipan Lagoon last May 17 and 18.



Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough won the 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta and got to keep the brass bat.



Tyce and Angie Mister returned to competitive sailing after a brief break.



Lino Olopai and Amada Rabauliman gives chase to Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough.



Tony Stearns in a pensive mood during a break in the 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta.



Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough smile for the camera.



From left, Ted Parker, Tony Stearns, Lino Olopai, and Janet McCullough exchange Day 1 stories on the shore.



Ron Smith fixes his glasses during this light moment in the 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta.



Lino Olopai and Amada Rabauliman enjoy the breeze as their catamaran cruises in the water.



Ted Parker is all smiles as his and Ron Smith's catamaran is set to go.

CNMI netters bow out of Guam Open



The May-September tandem of Chuck Sayon and Nicolas Son represented the CNMI in the 5th Annual Guam International Tennis Open, but bowed out before the weekend was through. **26**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Celtics beat Pistons in Detroit; lead series 2-1

Kevin Garnett led the Boston Celtics to their first win on the road in the playoffs. He had plenty of help. Garnett scored 22 points and was one of six players to make the Celtics' first six baskets. **24**



28 MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cal defends May Masters title

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ron Cal successfully defended her championship in the women's division of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament held Saturday night at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

But unlike her 44-pin victory over runner-up Dianne Camacho last year, Cal showed no mercy last Saturday, literally bowling over the competition with a 118-pin victory over closest pursuer Camacho.

Cal admitted she started slow as evidenced by the pedestrian 149 and 147 pinfalls she rolled in her first two outings.

She said after her lackluster start the chances of a repeat was the farthest thing in her mind.

That was the first and last time she would doubt herself though, as the Antipolo, Philippines native followed that up with four strong outings which saw her average close to 177 pinfalls with games of 202, 170, 192, and 204.

After an anemic 154 on her seventh game, Cal put together a string of five games where she averaged a scorching 201.6

MARK RABAGO
Ron Cal shows off her 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament women's trophy while wearing a BudBowl T-shirt yesterday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

pinfalls—192, 166, 214, 243, and 193. She wound up with a total 2,226, good for a 185 average.

Cal said she considers the back-to-back wins in the May Masters as the pinnacle of her bowling career, one that started 10 years ago in the CNMI. She is dedicating her victory to her 76-year-old mother, Constanca.

Camacho, for her part, settled for yet another bridesmaid finish after the veteran kegler finished with 2,108 pinfalls and an average of 175.67. Her 12-game series had her knock down 171, 201, 165, 191, 157, 169, 161, 154, 189, 191, 181, and 178.

Yho Villavicencio wound up third with a pinfall total of 2,024 and a per game average of 168.67. All Events winner Gina Sablan and Elena Soll completed the Top 5 with pinfalls of 2,016 (168 average) and 1,995 (166.25), respectively.

In the men's team competition, the foursome of Raymond Zapanta, Raymond Angeles, Kitz Barja, and men's All Events winner Richard Leong nosed out favorites Robert Talavera, Jon Hensley, Paul Pangelinan, and Alex Caddac (2,453-2,214).

Other winners of the May Masters were Leong (singles event), Zapanta and Angeles (doubles), Rita Palacios (women's singles), Soll and Villavicencio (women's doubles), and Cal, Sablan, Gigi Zapanta, and Gloria Omechalang (women's team).

The three-day May Masters is organized by the Saipan Bowling Association and is sponsored in part by JET Holdings, MARPAC-Budweiser, Saipan Grand Hotel, Club V, the Marianas Visitors Authority, PTI, and Saipan Bowling Center CNMI.



DAN KIMBALL
The 49 participants of last Saturday's 6th Annual Escape from Managaha Island embark on the *Jade Lady III*.

Stewart thanks supporter for successful Escape

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



While Mother Nature was a big factor in the successful staging of last Saturday's 6th Annual Escape from Managaha Island, Saipan Swim Club head coach Michael Stewart said the crossing wouldn't have been possible without the help from friends.

"I would like to thank the crew and staff of *Jade Lady III* for their help in this event. Without them providing transportation to Managaha Island none of these types of weekend events would have been possible," he said.

Stewart said others that played a huge role in last Saturday's Escape were Marianas Visitors Authority staff Frank Tudela, officers from Division of Boat-

ing Safety, and staff of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The SSC head coach said that after some initial worries he was happy that the Escape went through without a hitch last Saturday.

"I was a bit worried about this week's weather, thinking this springtime event is cursed—as we had to postpone last year's swim. However, the weather held off for the most part, just a few rainsqualls before and during the swim. The waves were the biggest factor, was very choppy, and windy, so the conditions were much more challenging for the athletes swimming."

Stewart added that the turnout was fine, although it was a little lower than he wanted. He said considering the weekend's weather and other island activities that pulled a few potential swimmers away, all and

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Heo, Race to reprise rivalry in open finals

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



It will be another mentor vs. student match-up in the men's open finals of the 2008 DFS Micronesian Championships, as the islands' top netter Ji Hoon Heo will face CNMI national coach Jeff Race this afternoon at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Race was the first to advance to the championship round after easily dispatching Steve Nutting in a score of 6-0, 6-1 yesterday morning.

A few hours later, Heo joined his mentor in the game for all the marbles this Memorial Day after he fashioned out a similar

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MARK RABAGO
Ji Hoon Heo, left, and James Camacho won their respective semifinal matches in the 2008 DFS Micronesian Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Advance X-Terminators grab share of lead

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Advance X-Terminators grabbed the share of the lead in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League after disposing of SMF Seabridge, 108-97, last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, GEC Pawnshop needed overtime to upend a tenacious Bank of Saipan team, 115-106, in the masters division and come within half a game of league-leader Taga Warriors.

Advance jumped all over the startled SMF Seabridge crew right from the get-go, establishing a 10-point lead, 31-21, after the first quarter led by the 14 combined points of Sonics teammates Jonathan Lim and Lerio Pagarao.

The advantage would double

for the Bug-busters come the second quarter, as lead guard Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. got into the act, firing 11 points to stoke his team to a 60-31 margin at halftime.

Intermission had a cooling effect on Advance, as they gave up most of their lead to a rallying SMF Seabridge team in the third.

Led by Kevin Bernardo's 10 points and another 17 from Meljhun Capalad and John Hugos, SMF Seabridge trimmed their deficit to 67-84 entering the fourth and final quarter.

SMF Seabridge kept their comeback going in the playoff period, as Bernardo poured in another 15 points, but timely hits from Pagarao, Estolas, and veteran swingman Melvin Villarin preserved the win for Advance.

Lim, Estolas, and Pagarao scored 22, 21, and 20 points,

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